

**SOUTHERN AREA
LOCALITY PLANNING GROUPS**



ISSUE 162
19th February 2026



WELCOME

Welcome to Issue 162 of our newsletter, 'FYI' (For Your Information).

The health & wellbeing of children and young people is always a top priority. Last week was Children's Mental Health Week, Tuesday 10th February was Safer Internet Day, and this week is Sexual Health Week, so, as well as the plethora of useful information which we normally include, we are also sharing information relevant to these specific areas which has been submitted by our contacts.

Thanks to all who have provided information on upcoming training opportunities, events, parenting programmes, reports, surveys, resources and funding opportunities for inclusion.

We hope that this issue is helpful to practitioners working across, and parents/carers living in, the region.

Locality Development Team, Southern Area

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SOUTHERN AREA LOCALITY PLANNING GROUPS MEETINGS CALENDAR 2026



ARMAGH

Thursday 8th January
Thursday 5th March
Thursday 7th May
Thursday 3rd September
Thursday 5th November

BANBRIDGE

Wednesday 28th January
Wednesday 15th April
Wednesday 17th June
Wednesday 23rd September
Wednesday 25th November

CRAIGAVON

Tuesday 13th January
Tuesday 10th March
Tuesday 12th May
Tuesday 8th September
Tuesday 10th November

DUNGANNON

Tuesday 3rd February
Tuesday 28th April
Tuesday 9th June
Tuesday 29th September
Tuesday 1st December

NEWRY &
MOURNE

Wednesday 18th February
Wednesday 22nd April
Wednesday 3rd June*
Wednesday 7th October
Wednesday 9th December

SOUTH
ARMAGH

Tuesday 20th January
Tuesday 24th March
Wednesday 3rd June*
Tuesday 15th September
Tuesday 17th November

*Joint Meeting of Newry & Mourne and South Armagh LPGs



All 2026 Locality Planning Group Meeting **venues** and **formats** have been confirmed and are now available to view on the Locality Planning Linktree [HERE](#)



Our funding restrictions are such that funded training is only available to those who work/volunteer for a voluntary, charitable, faith or community-based organisation

February Training

Open to those in voluntary/community sector

Children in Northern Ireland

Good Practice in Recording and Reporting

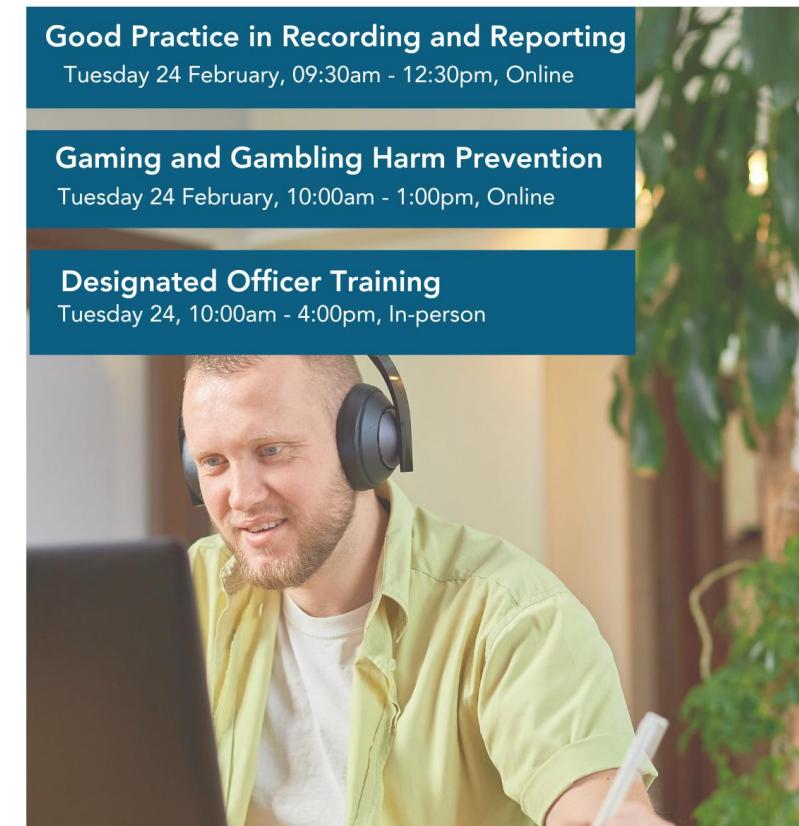
Tuesday 24 February, 09:30am - 12:30pm, Online

Gaming and Gambling Harm Prevention

Tuesday 24 February, 10:00am - 1:00pm, Online

Designated Officer Training

Tuesday 24, 10:00am - 4:00pm, In-person



March Training

Open to those in voluntary/community sector

Children in Northern Ireland

Risk Assessment and Risk Management

Tuesday 3 March, 09:30am - 12:30pm, Online

Mental Health Awareness

Wednesday 4 March, 09:30am - 12:30pm, Online

Life Story

Tuesday 10 March, 10:00am - 4:00pm, In-person

Designated Officer

Wednesday 11 March, 09:30am - 12:30pm, Online

Designated Officer

Tuesday 24 March, 09:30am - 12:30pm, Online

Child Protection Practice

Tuesday 31 March, 09:30am - 12:30pm, Online



www.ci-ni.org.uk/training

February / March

Training

Paid Courses

Children
in Northern
Ireland

Understanding Autism

Thursday 26 February, 10:00am - 4:00pm, In-person

Communicating Effectively with Children and Young People

Tuesday 3 March, 10am - 1pm, Online

Baby Yoga Instructor Training

Thursday 5 - Friday 6 March, 10am - 4pm, In-person

Counselling Skills for Everyday Practice

Friday 13 March, 10:00am - 4:00pm, In-person

Autistic Women and Girls

Thursday 19 March, 10:00am - 4:00pm, In-person

Supporting School Based Anxiety

Tuesday 24 March, 09:30am - 12:30pm, Online

Trauma and the Helping Professional

Friday 27 March, 10:00am - 4:00pm, In-person



www.ci-ni.org.uk/training



ASCERT

VAPING AWARENESS

FREE ONLINE WORKSHOP

**LEARN WHAT VAPING IS, WHY PEOPLE VAPE,
AND THE RISKS INVOLVED, INCLUDING
DANGERS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND VAPING
SUBSTANCES LIKE SPICE**

YOU ONLY NEED TO ATTEND ONE SESSION, AS ALL COVER THE SAME CONTENT

6.00PM - 7.30PM
ZOOM
FREE

MONDAY 16TH FEBRUARY
MONDAY 23RD FEBRUARY
THURSDAY 5TH MARCH
THURSDAY 12TH MARCH
MONDAY 16TH MARCH

FREE TICKETS VIA EVENTBRITE

Registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland NIC101239

ASCERT

Holistic Options for Promoting Resilience

 www.eventbrite.com/vaping-awareness



action mental health

Supporting positive mental health & wellbeing in our Schools and Community

Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) in the SHSCT area

 **ASIST**
Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training

Action Mental Health have a number of fully funded places for individuals and small groups to undertake the ASIST course, available to anyone living/working in the Southern Trust area.

Places are limited and will be allocated on a first come basis. As this is a fully funded course, there is no cost to complete the training however we kindly ask you to ensure you have the time commitment to be able to attend the 2 full days.

Dates: Tuesday 24th & Wednesday 25th February 2026
Times: 09:30 - 16:30 both days
Location: Clan Na Gael, Lurgan, Craigavon BT66 6DP

To book a place on this course and/or for further information please contact wellbeing@amh.org.uk

Places are limited, so we cannot usually accept enquiries from large groups. If you want to speak with us in advance please contact us on the email above.

This is an intensive 2 day course and given the course content it is not recommended for anyone who has recently experienced thoughts of suicide, or been bereaved by suicide.

Southern Area PROTECT LIFE SELF HARM PREVENTION

action mental health

P.I.P.S. Newry and Mourne
Positive Initiative for the Prevention of Isolation & Self-harm

wellbeing@amh.org.uk

 wellbeing@amh.org.uk



**NEW YEAR,
NEW SKILLS**

Start the new year informed

FREE CPD workshops

Upcoming workshops for sports staff and volunteers

Wednesday 25th February 2026

10:00am - 12:00pm

Online

[Book this date](#)

Upcoming workshops for sports staff and volunteers in community settings

Monday 16th March 2026

1:00pm - 4:00pm

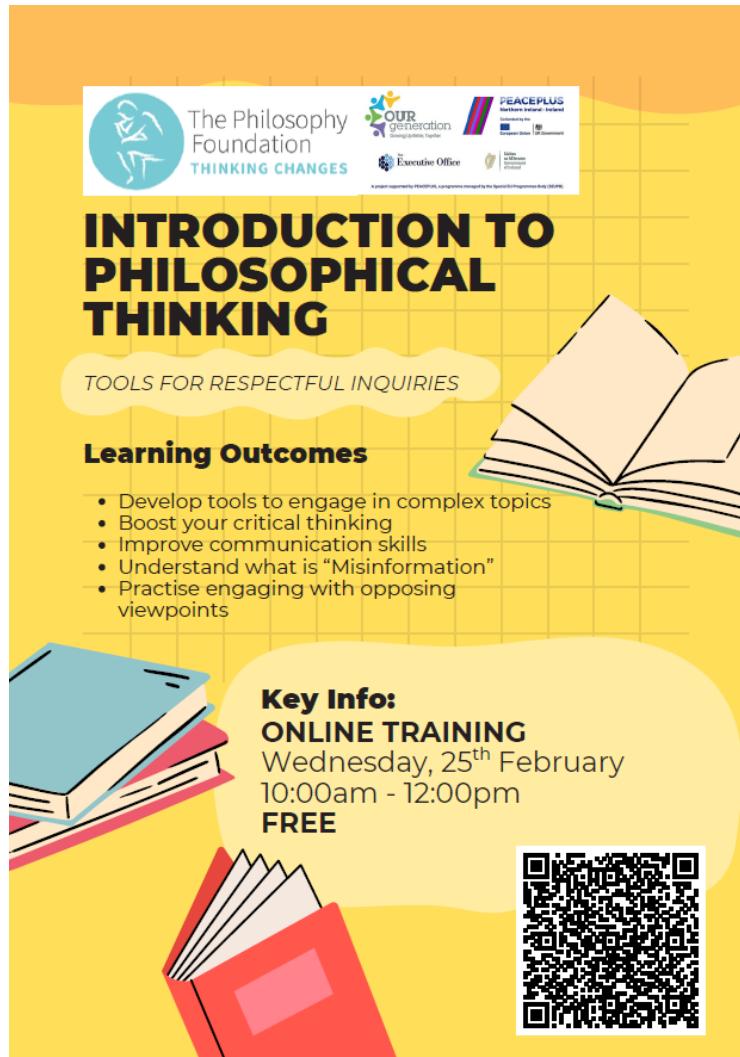
Online

[Book this date](#)

Free CPD certified training for all sports staff and volunteers on how to safeguard children and young people from experiencing gaming and gambling harm

Upon completion, every staff member / volunteer receives their own personal CPD certified certificate, digital credential, and access to our resource portal which contains free downloadable resources to use

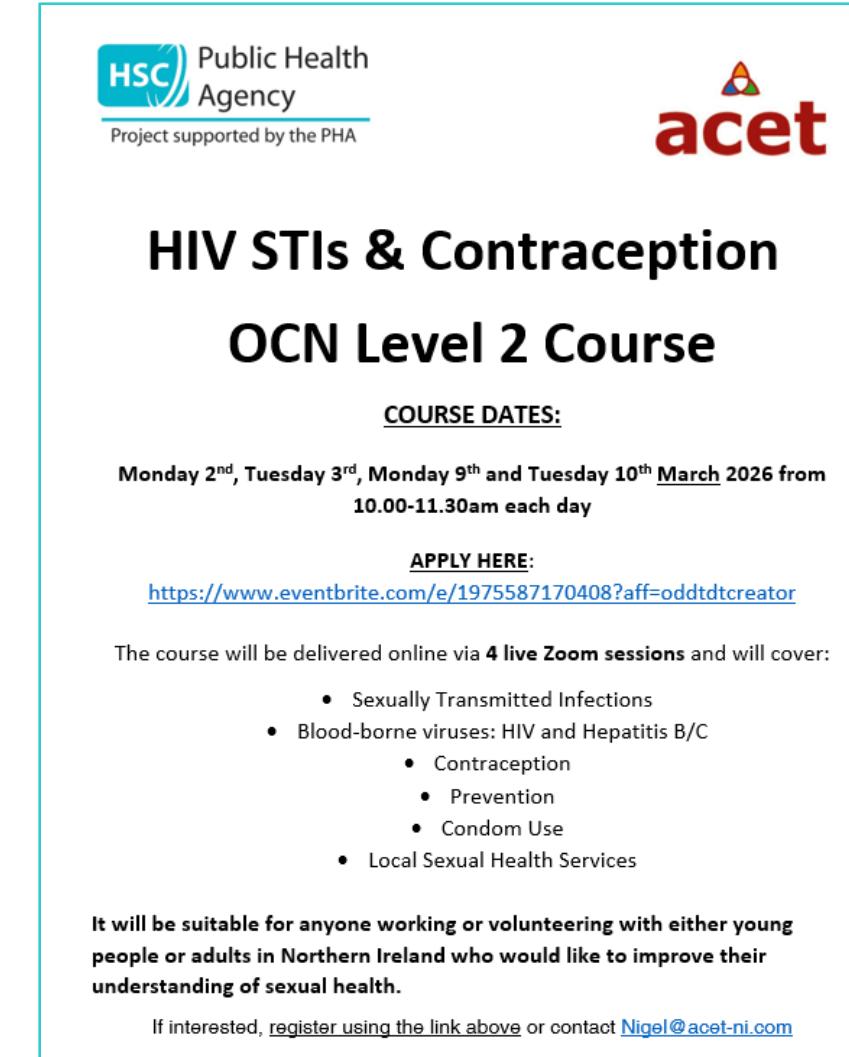
Register your place [HERE](#)



The poster features a yellow background with a grid pattern. At the top left is the logo for 'The Philosophy Foundation THINKING CHANGES'. To its right are logos for 'OUR generation', 'PEACEPLUS Northern Ireland', 'Executive Office', and 'Ulster University'. The main title 'INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHICAL THINKING' is in large, bold, black capital letters. Below it, a subtitle 'TOOLS FOR RESPECTFUL INQUIRIES' is in a smaller, italicized font. A section titled 'Learning Outcomes' lists five bullet points: 'Develop tools to engage in complex topics', 'Boost your critical thinking', 'Improve communication skills', 'Understand what is "Misinformation"', and 'Practise engaging with opposing viewpoints'. To the right of this text is a stylized illustration of an open book. At the bottom left, there is a stack of books and a red book with a white label. A large yellow circle on the right contains the text 'Key Info: ONLINE TRAINING Wednesday, 25th February 10:00am - 12:00pm FREE' and a QR code. The bottom right corner of the poster features a red graphic of an open book.



www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/critical-thinking



The poster has a white background with a teal border. At the top left is the 'HSC Public Health Agency' logo, with the text 'Project supported by the PHA' below it. To the right is the 'acet' logo. The main title 'HIV STIs & Contraception OCN Level 2 Course' is in large, bold, black capital letters. Below the title is a section titled 'COURSE DATES:' with the text 'Monday 2nd, Tuesday 3rd, Monday 9th and Tuesday 10th March 2026 from 10.00-11.30am each day'. A section titled 'APPLY HERE:' with a link 'https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1975587170408?aff=oddtdtcreator' follows. The text 'The course will be delivered online via 4 live Zoom sessions and will cover:' is in bold. A bulleted list of topics includes: 'Sexually Transmitted Infections', 'Blood-borne viruses: HIV and Hepatitis B/C', 'Contraception', 'Prevention', 'Condom Use', and 'Local Sexual Health Services'. At the bottom, the text 'It will be suitable for anyone working or volunteering with either young people or adults in Northern Ireland who would like to improve their understanding of sexual health.' is in bold. A note at the bottom right says 'If interested, register using the link above or contact Nigel@acet-ni.com'.



Nigel@acet-ni.com

Family Hub Find help Alumni login  Accessibility options  Select language

Ygam Our training ▾ Alumni resources ▾ News & insights ▾ Information & advice ▾ Support us ▾ About us ▾  Book training 

Northern Ireland Workshop Booking

Founded in 2014, Ygam is the UK's leading charity dedicated to preventing gaming and gambling harms among young people through education, awareness, and research. CPD certified, our free training is enriched by a library of resources, building a community of individuals dedicated to safeguarding.



Upcoming workshops

 Thursday 19th February 2026	 10:00am - 12:30pm	 Health and Social Care	Book this date
 Wednesday 11th March 2026	 10:00am - 1:00pm	 Supporting Children in Care	Book this date
 Friday 27th March 2026	 3:30pm - 5:30pm	 Teachers and Youth Workers	Book this date



<https://ygam.org/training/northern-ireland>



Home > Training

Training

Delivering innovative, needs-based training in volunteer management and safeguarding to empower organisations and individuals.

[View Courses Scheduled](#)



[Attracting and Selecting Volunteers - Volunteer Now](#)

[Risk Assessing Volunteers' Roles and Projects - Volunteer Now](#)

[Managing and Motivating Volunteers - Volunteer Now](#)

[Succession Planning for Volunteering - Volunteer Now](#)

[Managing volunteers: Conflicts, Complaints & Problems - Volunteer Now](#)

[Induct, Supervise and Support Volunteers - Volunteer Now](#)

[Recruit, Retain & Reward Volunteers \(The 3 R's\) - Volunteer Now](#)

[Volunteering and the Law - Volunteer Now](#)

https://www.volunteernow.co.uk/course/volunteering-and-the-law/cid_0/

[Succession Planning for Volunteering - Volunteer Now](#)

https://www.volunteernow.co.uk/course/measuring-volunteering-impact-and-outcomes/cid_0/

[Recruit, Retain & Reward Volunteers \(The 3 R's - Volunteer Now](#)

[Induct, Supervise and Support Volunteers - Volunteer Now](#)

Upcoming 3 day facilitator training for this exciting evidence-based parent programme!

When: 7, 8 and 14 May 2026 10am-4pm

Where: Ramada By Wyndham, Belfast

Cost: £1050 (includes supervision)

Fee includes access to all programme

materials and videos

For information on iIP check out investinplay.com

Email Maria to find out more & book a place

mariamcaleese2@gmail.com

**Building stronger
relationships for the
whole family**



Maria McAleese

Educational Psychologist &

Invest in play® Trainer NI

Training • Supervision • Support



mariamcaleese2@gmail.com



Two **FREE**
workshops
still
available



inspire
wellbeing, safety, recovery

Understanding Self-Harm

Self-harm and suicidal behaviours are interconnected but distinguishing between the two can be challenging. It's crucial to recognize the significant differences in intention and the risks each one presents.

This FREE community workshop provides a safe and supportive environment to learn how to recognise the signs, respond with compassion, and connect individuals (if appropriate) to Inspire's SHIP (Self-harm Intervention Programme) or to other relevant support services.

This workshop addresses both self-harm & suicide. It is designed for staff, family members, caregivers, or anyone supporting young people or adults affected or at risk.

In this workshop we will:

- Define Self-Harm & explore the motivations behind it.
- Understand risk factors, myths & discuss self-harm & suicide safely
- Learn to recognise the signs of distress & how to offer support
- Equip ourselves with tools to assist someone in crisis
- Consider Harm Minimisation & Safety Plans
- Gain an understanding of the SHIP Service & referral pathways

Eligibility & Booking Information:

- Free to community groups in the Southern Trust & South Eastern Trust Areas.
- Workshops must be 2 hours in length.
- Delivered daytime, in-person.
- Target group size - 12 (max of 20)

Jenny Groves, Training Co-ordinator
j.groves@inspirewellbeing.org
07834 181303



j.groves@inspirewellbeing.org



Taking place
TONIGHT!



**Free Online Adolescent
Brain Development
Session for
Parents/Carers**

**Southern Health
and Social Care Trust**
TOGETHER, IMPROVING CARE, TRANSFORMING LIVES

**Understanding your child
Solihull Approach**

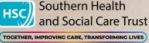
Online session
Thursday 19th February
7pm-8.30pm

For more info or to book a place contact:

- lisa.lenaghan@southerntrust.hscni.net
- 07841 970 432



lisa.lenaghan@southerntrust.hscni.net



Southern Health and Social Care Trust
TOGETHER, IMPROVING CARE, TRANSFORMING LIVES



Southern Trust Recovery College
Wellbeing education for everyone

RECOVERY COLLEGE COURSES

We have a wide range of courses available



JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH 2026

To register your interest / enrol on any of the courses, get in touch.
All our courses are free of charge.

To register your interest in any courses, please get in touch using the contact details below:

Tel: 02837561938

Email: Recovery.college@southerntrust.hscni.net

Alternatively, you can use the below link to register your interest:
[Recovery College Register Form | Southern Health & Social Care Trust](#)

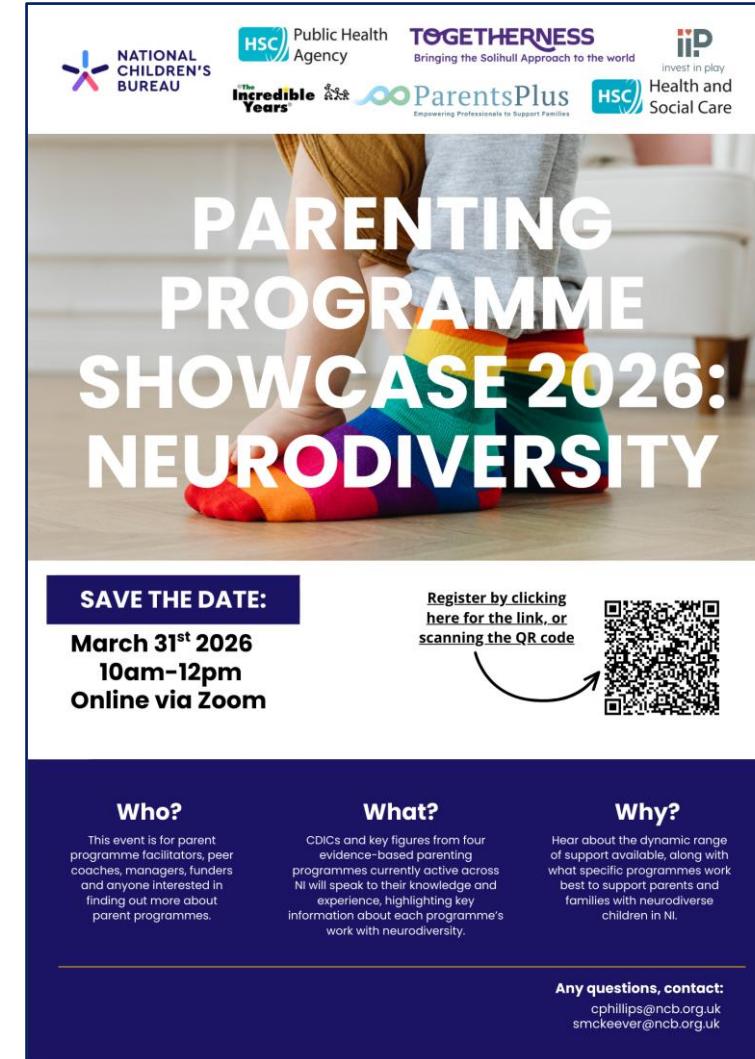
To access our Free Online Recovery College Courses, which are available 24 hours a day, register [HERE](#)



Mark.Irwin@southerntrust.hscni.net



Parents & Carers, just come along on the day!



The poster features a photograph of a child's legs wearing colorful socks. Logos for National Children's Bureau, Public Health Agency, TOGETHERNESS, The Incredible Years, ParentsPlus, iIP, and Health and Social Care are at the top. The main title is "PARENTING PROGRAMME SHOWCASE 2026: NEURODIVERSITY".

SAVE THE DATE:
March 31st 2026
10am-12pm
Online via Zoom

Who?
This event is for parent programme facilitators, peer coaches, managers, funders and anyone interested in finding out more about parent programmes.

What?
CDICs and key figures from four evidence-based parenting programmes currently active across NI will speak to their knowledge and experience, highlighting key information about each programme's work with neurodiversity.

Why?
Hear about the dynamic range of support available, along with what specific programmes work best to support parents and families with neurodiverse children in NI.

Any questions, contact:
cphilips@ncb.org.uk
smckeever@ncb.org.uk

Register by clicking [here for the link](#), or scanning the QR code



<https://forms.office.com/ResponsePage>



The banner features the Sexual Health NI logo at the top left. The main title 'Sexual health – who do you listen to?' is in the center. Below the title are logos for DoH, INFORMING CHOICES, COMMON YOUTH, Rainbow Project, and acet. To the right is a smartphone displaying the Sexual Health NI website with a QR code and the URL sexualhealthni.info. The HSC Health and Social Care logo is in the top right corner.

The theme of this year's **Sexual Health Week Campaign (14-21 February)** is Sexual Health Information: who do you listen to?

Information overload?

There is a vast amount of sexual health information online

Here are 3 easy steps you can take to be sure you are making informed decisions from reliable resources - Identify a reliable source for information, Cross Reference what you read and if in doubt Consult a professional

Start with websites like www.sexualhealthni.info

Being informed about sexual health gives you the confidence to make decisions about your own body and to understand what is right for you

#WorldSexualHealthWeek2026NI #WhoDoYouListenTo



PARENTS PLUS Children's Programme

An evidence-based parenting programme on promoting confidence, learning and positive behaviour in children aged 6 to 11 years.

9 week programme for parents/carers starting
Wednesday 4th March from 10am-12 noon (online)

Priority will be given to families in the Craigavon/Banbridge area.
Referrals will however be considered for families
across the Southern Trust

For further information, please contact Maria:
Email: parenting.partnership@southerntrust.hscni.net
Mob: 07880 474747



Click or scan here
for the Referral Form

BOLSTER
COMMUNITY

ParentsPlus
Improving Lives | Impact Lives

HSC Southern Health
and Social Care Trust
TOGETHER, IMPROVING CARE, TRANSFORMING LIVES

Delivery Partners: Parenting Partnership & Bolster



Build children's
social competence,
self-confidence and
emotion regulation
skills.

Help parents to
respond to
behavioural
difficulties.

Support strong
parent-child
relationships.

invest in play®

Building Stronger Relationships For The Whole Family

A 12-week programme for parents/carers of children aged 5-12 years

Start Date: Tuesday 24th March 2026

Time: 10am-12pm

Location: ABC Community Network, Magharee House, 82 Thomas Street, Portadown BT62 3NU



Click or scan here for
the Referral Form

For more information please contact:
Maria Killen, Parenting Partnership
Phone: 07880 474747
Email: parenting.partnership@southerntrust.hscni.net

HSC Southern Health
and Social Care Trust
TOGETHER, IMPROVING CARE, TRANSFORMING LIVES

IP
invest in play



parenting.partnership@southerntrust.hscni.net



parenting.partnership@southerntrust.hscni.net

Understanding Your Child's Behaviour

A Solihull Approach (Togetherness) programme for parents and carers of toddler and pre-school aged children



This programme is for parents and carers who want to know more about parenting and how children develop, and to understand children's behaviour better.

Our evaluation of previous programmes has shown that parents have found them helpful, they tend to feel less anxious and their children's behaviour tends to improve.

We will explore issues like:

Having fun
Development Needs
Behavioural Difficulties

Communication
Parenting styles
Sleep

DATES & TIMES
Date of programme is
15th April 2026
7.00pm - 9.00pm
For 10 weeks Online

For more information please contact:
Maria Killen, Parenting Partnership
Phone: 07880 474747
Email: parenting.partnership@southerntrust.hscni.net



Click or scan here for
the Referral Form



Southern Health
and Social Care Trust
Health Education and Improvement

UNDERSTANDING YOUR CHILD
SOLIHULL APPROACH



parenting.partnership@southerntrust.hscni.net

Teen programmes

Programme: Parents Plus Special Needs Programme
 Start date: Wed 10th Sept-22nd of Oct 2025
 Duration: 7 weeks (10am-12.30pm)
 Location: Clanrye, 34 Armagh Business Centre, Loughgall Road, Armagh
 Attendees: Parents/carers of young people 11-18 years in the Southern Trust with a confirmed Autism diagnosis.
 Facilitators: Clanrye & Parenting Partnership
 Enquiries/Referrals: [e: Claire.convery@clanryegroup.com](mailto:Claire.convery@clanryegroup.com)
 t: 07483 059876

Programme: Parents Plus Special Needs Programme
 Start date: Tues 13th Jan-Tues 3rd of March 2026
 Duration: 7 weeks (10am-12.30pm)
 Location: St Pauls High School Bessbrook
 Attendees: All parents/carers of young people 11-18 years with special needs within Newry & Mourne area
 Facilitators: Parenting Partnership & Newry MDT Team
 Enquiries/Referrals: Parenting Partnership-07880474747
[e: parenting.partnership@southerntrust.hscni.net](mailto:parenting.partnership@southerntrust.hscni.net)
 t: Or Newry GP MDT Team-07425630856
[e: Veronica.kern@southerntrust.hscni.net](mailto:Veronica.kern@southerntrust.hscni.net)

Programme: Parents Plus Special Needs Programme
 Start date: Thurs 19th Feb-Thurs 2nd April
 Duration: 7 weeks (6pm-8.30pm)
 Location: Online
 Attendees: Parents/carers of young people 11-18 years in the Southern Trust with a confirmed Autism diagnosis.
 Facilitators: Clanrye
 Enquiries/Referrals: [e: Claire.convery@clanryegroup.com](mailto:Claire.convery@clanryegroup.com)
 t: 07483 059876

General Enquiries

Maria Killen
 Parenting Partnership Manager
 ① 07880 474747
[✉ parenting.partnership@southerntrust.hscni.net](mailto:parenting.partnership@southerntrust.hscni.net)
 Or
 Martina McCooey
 Child Development Interventions Co-ordinator
 ① 028 3756 4462 / 07795 450278
[✉ martina.mccooey@southerntrust.hscni.net](mailto:martina.mccooey@southerntrust.hscni.net)

For further information on these and other programmes please visit our webpage below. Additional programme information will be added throughout the year

[Parent Support – Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership \(CYPSP\) \(hscni.net\)](#)



Evidence Based

SUPPORT PROGRAMMES FOR PARENTS & CARERS

Giving every child the best start/opportunity in life



2025/ 2026
 Southern Trust

Please visit our CYPSP webpage to access the range of **evidence-based parenting programmes** available to families resident in the Southern Trust Area from September 2025 to June 2026

The programmes span the age range pre-birth to teens and are available for the families of typically developing/children and young people with special needs

Further information available [HERE](#)



IGNITE 4 COMMUNITY

EMPOWER YOUNG VOICES, CREATE LOCAL IMPACT
JOIN THE IGNITE COMMUNITY PROGRAMME TODAY!

- A 30-Hour Social Innovation Programme**
Inspiring youth-led change that makes a real difference in local communities.
- Fits into Your Existing Youth Group or Project**
Delivered during your usual session times - no extra hours needed!
- Flexible & Tailored to Your Group**
We adapt the format, content, and delivery to suit your needs - we meet you where you're at.
- Empowers Young Voices**
Supports young people to speak up, be heard, and lead positive change.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT **FUN!** **CREATIVITY** **LEADERSHIP SKILLS** **EMPOWERMENT** **ENTREPRENEURSHIP** **EMPATHY**

Want to empower young people with real-world skills?
We can help!
 We deliver the programme directly to your youth group
 Or, we'll train and support you to run it yourself

Learn more here:
<https://ignitecommunity.carrd.co/>

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST HERE!

YOUNG SOCIAL INNOVATORS

PEACEPLUS Northern Ireland - Ireland
Co-Funded by the European Union, UK Government, Interpeace, and Northern Ireland Civil Society



Ignite Community - Empowering Young People to Lead Change

Ignite Community is a fully funded, cross-border youth programme for young people aged 9-25 across the border counties and Northern Ireland

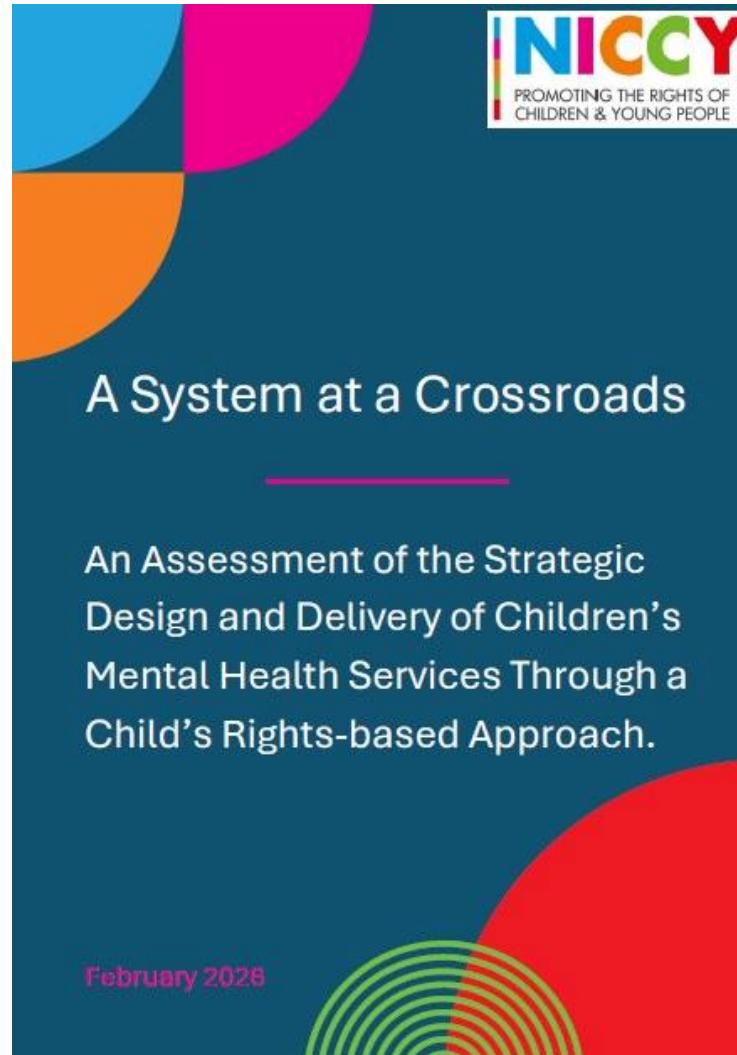
The programme supports young people to explore issues that matter to them, develop leadership and teamwork skills, and design and deliver their own social action projects

Through hands-on workshops and collaborative activities, participants build confidence, strengthen their voice, and learn how to turn ideas into real impact within their communities

Ignite Community is youth-led, inclusive, and focused on creating positive change across all backgrounds and traditions

If you work with young people and would like to find out how Ignite Community could support your group, we'd love to connect!

E-mail: saleh.rifaie@youngsocialinnovators.ie



NICCY
PROMOTING THE RIGHTS OF
CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

A System at a Crossroads

An Assessment of the Strategic
Design and Delivery of Children's
Mental Health Services Through a
Child's Rights-based Approach.

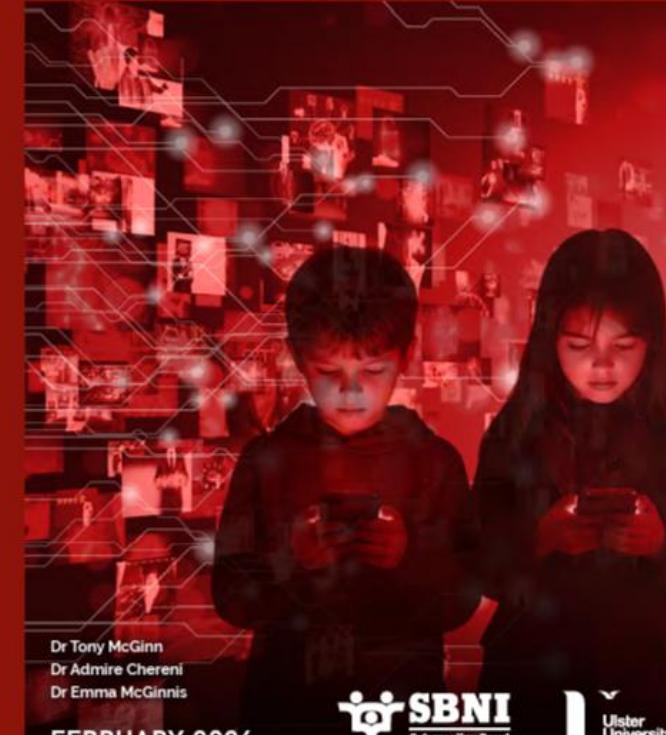
February 2028



www.niccy.org/latest-report



Understanding Risk, Barriers and Facilitators to Reporting Technology Assisted Child Sexual Abuse



Dr Tony McGinn
Dr Admire Chereni
Dr Emma McGinnis

FEBRUARY 2026

SBNI
Safer Internet Board
for Northern Ireland

Ulster University



https://onlinesafetyhub.org/Ulster_University_Report

Community-Led Research on the Needs of Rural Women and Girls in relation to Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)



What is this research?

Rural Community Network (RCN) and Northern Ireland Rural Women's Network (NIRWN), are carrying out a **community-led research project** exploring how women and girls in rural Northern Ireland experience safety, support, and access to services in relation to VAWG.

The research looks at how rural life – including small communities, distance, transport, housing, digital access, and close social networks – can shape people's experiences when they are worried about safety, wellbeing, or harm.

This work forms part of the Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG) Delivery Plan, commissioned in partnership with The Executive Office and DAERA.

Why is this research needed?

Violence against women and girls affects all communities. However, rural areas often face distinct challenges, including:

- Fewer and less visible services
- Concerns about privacy and being recognised
- Distance, transport, and housing pressures
- Strong community ties that can both support and silence
- Limited opportunities to seek help early, before crisis points

While policy is often designed at a regional level, rural realities are not always well understood or reflected. This research aims to change that by grounding evidence in lived experience and community insight.

Who are we speaking to?

We want to hear from people and organisations who are part of **everyday rural life**, including:

- Farming and agricultural groups
- Sports clubs and sporting organisations
- Faith groups and cultural organisations
- Community and voluntary groups
- Health, housing, youth, and advice services

We are also engaging directly with **rural women and girls**, including those with lived experience, in a safe and trauma-informed way.



Rural Community Network



NIRWN
Northern Ireland Rural Women's Network



Northern Ireland Executive



EN
ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS



Department of
Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs

Community-Led Research on the Needs of Rural Women and Girls in relation to Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)



Why your voice matters

People often turn first to trusted local networks – not formal services – when they are worried or unsure what to do. Groups like yours:

- See patterns others don't
- Understand local pressures and norms
- Influence attitudes, behaviours, and help-seeking
- Are often the first place people look for guidance or reassurance

Your insights can help ensure that future policy and services are **realistic, effective, and appropriate** for rural communities.

What will taking part involve?

Participation is flexible and proportionate. This may include:

- A short interview sharing your perspectives based on your experience or role, reflecting on what works well locally and what could work better
- Focus group discussion either online or in person

You do not need specialist knowledge of violence or safeguarding to take part.

What difference will this make?

The findings will be used to:

- Inform government policy and rural needs based policy design
- Improve access to early support and prevention
- Reduce unintended harm caused by rural invisibility or service gaps
- Strengthen collaboration between communities, services, and decision-makers

The final recommendations will be **practical, rural-sensitive, and action-focused**, with clear routes to implementation.



Department of
Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs



samantha@ruralcommunitynetwork.org / louise@nirwn.org



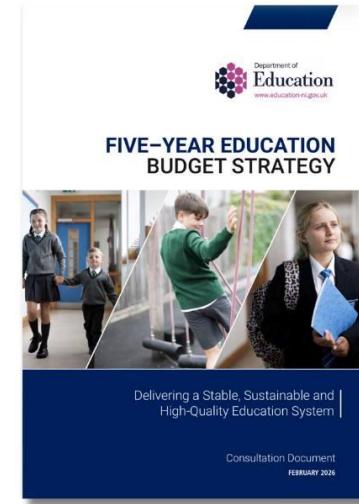
 Department of
Education

**FIVE-YEAR EDUCATION
BUDGET STRATEGY**

Public Consultation

PUBLISHED

FIVE-YEAR EDUCATION BUDGET STRATEGY



HAVE YOUR SAY ON:

-  HOME TO SCHOOL
TRANSPORT
-  SCHOOL MEALS
-  SEN IN MAINSTREAM
SCHOOLS
-  SCHOOLS ESTATE
-  FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT
OF SCHOOLS



www.education-ni.gov.uk/consultation-five-year-budget-strategy

Attendance Matters

SUPPORTING CHILDREN AND
YOUNG PEOPLE TO ATTEND
SCHOOL EVERY DAY

CONSULTATION LAUNCHED



Department of
Education
www.education-ni.gov.uk



 www.education-ni.gov.uk/attendance-matters

Draft Early Learning and Childcare Strategy

LAUNCHED



Department of
Education

 www.education-ni.gov.uk/elc-strategy





The KFC Youth Foundation

NEW 2026 KFC Youth Foundation - Community Grant Programme

NOTICE

As part of our due diligence process, we may use AI-assisted tools to help review supporting documents you provide (such as policies, governance information or financial reports). These tools help us identify relevant information more efficiently, but **all decisions are ultimately made by our staff**.

We use AI tools in a way that is transparent, fair and lawful in accordance with the UK GDPR and ICO guidance. We do not carry out solely automated decision-making that has legal or significant effects on applicants.

You can contact us if you have questions about how your information is processed.

The KFC Youth Foundation provides grants to support grassroots organisations in the heart of KFC's restaurant communities. Organisations empowering economically disadvantaged young people in the UK to fulfil their potential by providing safe spaces, diversionary activities or social skills. <https://www.kfcyf.org.uk/>

APPLY

Opens

30 Jan 2026 12:00 AM (GMT)

Deadline

27 Feb 2026 12:00 PM (GMT)



www.kfcyf.org.uk/grants

We're Hiring!
Join STEP's new
InterACT Project



STEP is excited to be recruiting three passionate and dedicated professionals to join our brand-new **InterACT Families & Communities Programme**. Thanks to secured 3-year funding, these roles offer stability, purpose, and the chance to make a **real difference for families across Mid Ulster**.

Community Development Lead

Salary £31,100 pro rata, 30-37.5 hrs p/w negotiable

Community Development Worker

Salary £27,900 pro rata, 30 hrs per week

Family Support Worker

Salary £27,900 pro rata, 30 hrs per week

Why work with STEP?

- ✓ Competitive rates of pay
- ✓ 6% Employer pension contribution
- ✓ 36 days leave inclusive of 10 statutory days
- ✓ Access to company healthcare scheme
- ✓ Access to paid training and development

Full information and application pack
available, please email
alison.mccann@stepni.org

Closing date for applications: 2.00 pm
Thursday 26 February 2026



alison.mccann@stepni.org

FEBRUARY 2026

KING'S TRUST COURSES

GET READY

Get Ready for Careers in Customer Service

Age: 16-30 **Taster:** 10 Feb

Dates: 16 - 20 Feb

Location: Belfast

Gain insight into the wide variety of careers available in customer service. Receive valuable knowledge and guidance from industry professionals while learning key technical skills

Get Ready for Careers in Horticulture

Age: 16-30 **Taster:** 24 Feb

Dates: 2 - 6 Mar

Location: Derry/Londonderry

Receive practical training in gardening and horticulture with The Conservation Volunteers. Build teamwork and problem-solving skills, while learning key technical skills from experts in the field

Get Ready for Careers in Health & Social Care

Age: 16-30 **Taster:** 24 Feb

Dates: 2 - 13 Mar

Location: Belfast

Get relevant experience through practical activities. Gain insight into a wide variety of careers in Health & Social Care. Work towards an OCN Level 2 Award in Employability and Health & Social Care and an RQF qualification in First Aid at Work

EXPLORE+

Age: 16-24 **Taster:** 28 Jan

Dates: 2 Feb

Location: Belfast

A six-month personal development programme. Take part in a range of activities on areas such as employability skills, good relations, citizenship, and positive progression

GET INTO

Get Into Security

Age: 16-30 **Taster:** 9 Feb

Dates: 16 Feb - 6 Mar

Location: Belfast

Gain a Level 2 Award in Door Supervision, a First Aid qualification, and qualify for your SIA licence. Job opportunities available after the course

Get Into M&S

Age: 16-30 **Taster:** 18 Feb

Dates: 2 - 27 Mar

Location: Across NI

Gain four weeks of work experience in a local M&S store, boost your employability skills, and receive 1:1 mentor support. Job opportunities available after the course

ENTERPRISE

Age: 18-30

Dates: Available year round

Location: Online with 1:1 support

Take part in expert-led workshops on finance, marketing, business planning, sales, and more. Get support to build a business plan and grants to launch your business

GET STARTED

Get Started with Makeup

Age: 16-30 **Taster:** 10 Feb

Dates: 16 - 20 Feb

Location: Derry/Londonderry

Gain practical experience from a professional makeup artist and learn about working in the industry. Work towards Beauty Guilds qualifications

DROP IN

Drop in to chat to our friendly staff and find out about our programmes. Get money back for your travel in by bus or train

King's Trust Belfast Centre

6E Weavers Court, Belfast, BT12 5GH

20 Feb, 1pm - 3pm

Free parking is available at our centre, or we are easily walkable from Grand Central Station



USEFUL INFO

All our courses:

- are free to attend
- don't impact benefits

We also:

- reimburse transport costs
- cover childcare costs (subject to application)

CONTACT US

outreachni@kingstrust.org.uk

0800 842 842

kingstrust.org.uk



outreachni@kingstrust.org.uk

**Skills for Life & Work
and Youth Academy**

Open Days 2026

Are you 16-17 or up to 22 with a disability and interested in a Level 1 vocational qualification commencing September 2026

Vocational Qualifications include:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Horticulture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Warehousing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Retail
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IT Technician	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hospitality
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Construction	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Business Administration	

Slieve Gullion
Courtyard, Newry

Monday 2nd March
10am to 12pm
Mayfair Business Centre, Portadown

Wednesday 11th March
10am to 12pm

10am: Overview of Programme, 10:30am -12pm: Tour & Individual Meetings

For more information contact 028 3089 8119 or info@clanryegroup.com

Department for the Economy | An Roinn Geilleagair
www.economy-ni.gov.uk



info@clanryegroup.com

APPRENTICESHIPS NI

GET STARTED. GET SKILLED.

This programme is open to all school leavers aged 16+

Clanrye Group, via Apprenticeships NI, can provide you with high-quality vocational training to help you build real skills and confidence.

Train in a real job

Earn while you learn

Build a career

Scan the QR code and take your first step - **APPLY TODAY!**

SCAN ME

Areas include

Retail & Customer Service

Warehousing

Horticulture

To get started contact us today ...

CONTACT US
Chloe Marron
028 3089 8119
chloe.marron@clanryegroup.com

LOCATIONS
Newry
Slieve Gullion
Lurgan

FIND US ON
[f](https://www.facebook.com/danegroup) [i](https://www.instagram.com/danegroup/) [in](https://www.linkedin.com/company/danegroup/) www.danegroup.com

Department for the Economy | An Roinn Geilleagair | Apprenticeships



chloe.marron@clanryegroup.com

The Disability Upskilling Programme

Empowering individuals with disabilities to grow, learn and thrive.

Are you **employed**, with a **disability**? Want to **progress** your **career** and gain relevant **qualifications**?



Take the next step!

Contact us by scanning the QR code to find out how we can support you.

If you have a disability or health condition and are interested in gaining support to:

- Up-skill your current qualifications
- Change roles
- Increase your working hours

We offer:

- Personalised career guidance and mentoring
- Access to training and upskilling opportunities
- Support with job searches and applications
- Help to build confidence and independence in employment

SCAN HERE



Who can apply?

Residents within the Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon council area.

About the Programme:

The **Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Labour Market Partnerships**, in collaboration with the **Cedar Foundation**, are supporting individuals **across the council area** to enhance their **skills, confidence and career**.





a.Lupari@cedar-foundation.org

WHY CHOOSE SPECIALISTERNE?

- ✓ All programmes are **fully funded**
- ✓ We welcome all who are **diagnosed** and **self-identify** as autistic, and/or dyslexic, and individuals who have ADHD, OCD, Dyspraxia, Dyscalculia, or Tourettes!
- ✓ Programmes are all **co-designed** with our autistic and neurodivergent community
- ✓ Proud to be named on the **Forbes Accessibility 100 list!** Recognised as one of the world's top innovators in accessibility for our work advancing neurodivergent inclusion in the workplace.

SOCIAL & WELLBEING
"I feel like I can be more like myself when I am at the sessions"

EMPLOYABILITY
"One to one sessions helped me to communicate what I needed support with and provided specific feedback."

IN-WORK SUPPORT
"Great opportunity to ask questions and help to make ideas happen for me to explore reasonable adjustments at work."

SUPPORTING YOU TO

- Build confidence
- Thrive
- Connect with others
- Be yourself
- Pursue Goals
- Employment
- Grow
- Self-advocate
- +

For additional information or to arrange a meeting to discuss how we can best support you, please contact us at:



Email Us

sharond@specialisterne.com



Call Us

028 9073 9601

SUPPORTING NEURODIVERGENT ADULTS TO THRIVE.



Build meaningful connections.
Kickstart, and/or progress in your career.
Thrive and work at your best.

Northern Ireland
SPECIALISTERNE 



sharond@specialisterne.com



1 Connect with others and grow in confidence with In This Together

I.T.T. offers neurodivergent people an opportunity to **connect** with and **learn** from neurodivergent people across **NI and border counties**, to enjoy a range of activities, and to learn wellbeing strategies of neurodivergent people.

EXAMPLES OF ACTIVITIES

Coffee Groups
Interest groups
Managing Emotions
Neurodiversity and Wellbeing
Strategies of neurodivergent people
ADHD /Dyslexia/OCD/
Autism/Dyspraxia Thinking tools
and more!

Increased confidence

Feeling more socially connected

More able to self-advocate



IN THIS TOGETHER
Supported by PEACEPLUS,
a programme managed by
the Special EU
Programmes Body (SEUPB)



PEACEPLUS
Northern Ireland - Ireland

Co-funded by the
European Union | UK Government
Northern Ireland Executive
Government of United Kingdom



2 Start and/or progress in careers with Empower

Empower is funded by the UK government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.



Receive 1-1 employability support for preparation, securing, and progressing in careers



Join our community and connect with others who share similar experiences, backgrounds, or aspirations!



Connect with mentors and learn what it is like to work in different roles as a neurodivergent person

3 Stay and thrive in work with WorkableNI

Workable is an NI-wide in-work support programme for people with disabilities and their employers. Specialisterne is delivering Workable, a DFC-funded programme, through Workable provider Disability Action.

Support involves **1-1 meetings** with an Autism and Neurodiversity Consultant, to help you **achieve your work goals**.

It also includes supporting your manager and/or team to **better understand the experience of working as a neurodivergent person**, so that there is shared understanding at work.



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



sharond@specialisterne.com

Labour Market Partnerships Childminding Academy

Are you interested in becoming a registered Childminder or approved home Childcarer?

This is an exciting opportunity to become a self-employed Childminder or an approved home Childcarer. The academy provides free access to the training, advice and support needed to enhance your qualifications whilst gaining the experience and resources required for a new career.

Why choose a career path in home based Childcare?

- The opportunity to earn a living by caring for other people's children
- The option to stay at home and care for your own children as well as caring for others
- Become self-employed
- Support the development of children up to 12 years of age
- Be eligible to benefit from the Tax Free Childcare scheme

What are the eligibility criteria?

- Must be over the age of 18
- Have the right to work in the UK
- Willing to commit and fully participate in all aspects of the academy



Labour Market Partnership
Working Together



* Places are limited and applications may need to be prioritised. Whilst every effort will be taken to accommodate all enquiries, submitting an application does not guarantee a placement on the academy.



enquiries@nicma.org



Ready to take the next step?

For more information or to apply, contact our delivery partner NICMA:
Email: enquiries@nicma.org
Tel: 028 9181 1015



ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING A REGISTERED CHILDMINDER?

WOULD YOU LIKE TO WORK AS AN APPROVED HOME CHILDCARER?

ARE YOU A PARENT WHO NEEDS INFORMATION ABOUT HOME BASED CHILDCARE?

We can help!

Contact:
Ellie McKenna
Southern Trust Childminding Development & Engagement Officer
07739 753187
ellie.mckenna@nicma.org



ellie.mckenna@nicma.org



FAMILY VOLUNTEERING

WE NEED HELP WITH

- Sat 21 Feb 2026: Newry Library
– Oxfam jewellery relabelling
- Sat in March 2026: tbc
- Sat 18 April 2026: Tesco Newry
food donation collection
- Sat 16 May 2026: Newry Canal
Tow Path IWAI
- Sun 14 June 2026: Gateway
choir event

INTERESTED IN JOINING US?

Contact Bronagh:
07708 077 954
bronagh.demeillers@volunteernow.co.uk



bronagh.demeillers@volunteernow.co.uk



We're looking for volunteers to support our Street Collection on 17th March,
10am - 4pm in Armagh City Centre

By giving just a couple of hours, you can help us raise vital funds and
awareness for those affected by sexual violence

Every donation and every conversation helps us continue providing specialist
support to those who need it most

Whether you can help for an hour or few, your time will make a real difference

- 📍 Armagh City Centre
- 📅 17th March
- ⌚ 10am - 4pm

If you'd like to volunteer, please message us to get involved

Together, we can stand with survivors and create change

Get in touch - E-mail: info@advocacyvsv.com or call 07852 594 677



Advocacy
VOICE OF HOPE VSV

WE'RE RECRUITING BOARD MEMBERS

AdvocacyVSV is looking for new Board Members with skills in:

- ✓ Accountancy & Financial Management
- ✓ Money Management & Governance
- ✓ Legal Expertise
- ✓ Social Care / Health & Wellbeing
- ✓ Business Development & Strategy

Use your expertise to help strengthen support for victims and survivors of sexual violence.
Voluntary role | Strategic impact

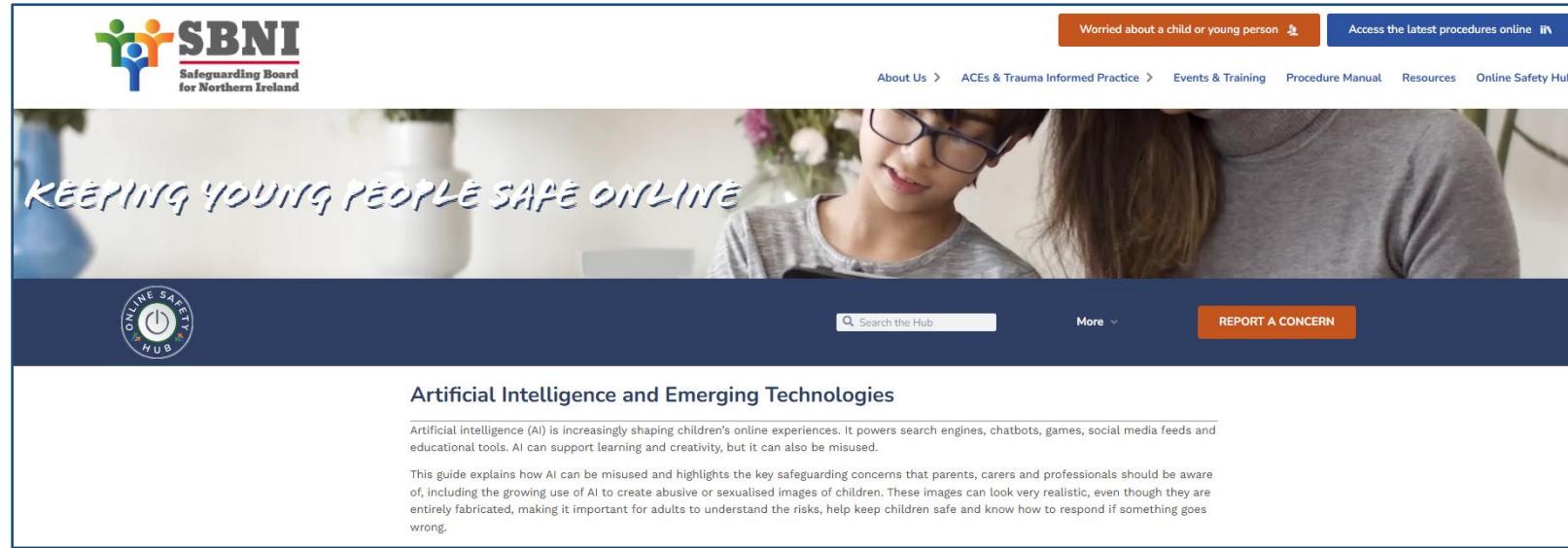
APPLY NOW → info@advocacyvsv.com

www.advocacyvsv.com 07852 594 677

 COMMUNITY FUND



info@advocacyvsv.com



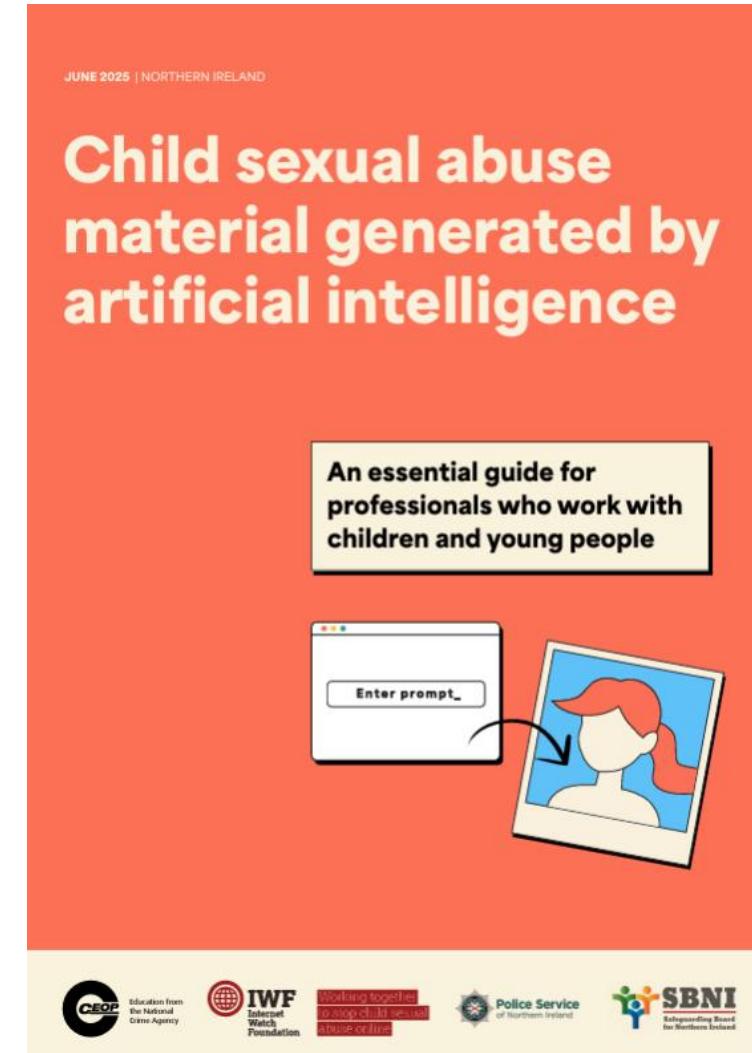
The screenshot shows the SBNI Online Safety Hub website. The header features the SBNI logo (three stylized human figures in blue, green, and yellow) and the text 'SBNI Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland'. Navigation links include 'Worried about a child or young person', 'Access the latest procedures online', 'About Us', 'ACEs & Trauma Informed Practice', 'Events & Training', 'Procedure Manual', 'Resources', and 'Online Safety Hub'. A main banner image shows a young boy with glasses looking at a screen, with the text 'KEEPING YOUNG PEOPLE SAFE ONLINE' overlaid. Below the banner is a search bar, a 'More' dropdown, and a 'REPORT A CONCERN' button. The main content area is titled 'Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technologies' and discusses AI's impact on children's online experiences and its potential for misuse. It also highlights concerns about AI-generated abusive or sexualised images of children.

Information for parents and carers on AI generated and manipulated images involving young people
Parents and carers are encouraged to speak with their children about safe online behaviour and to seek help if anything causes concern

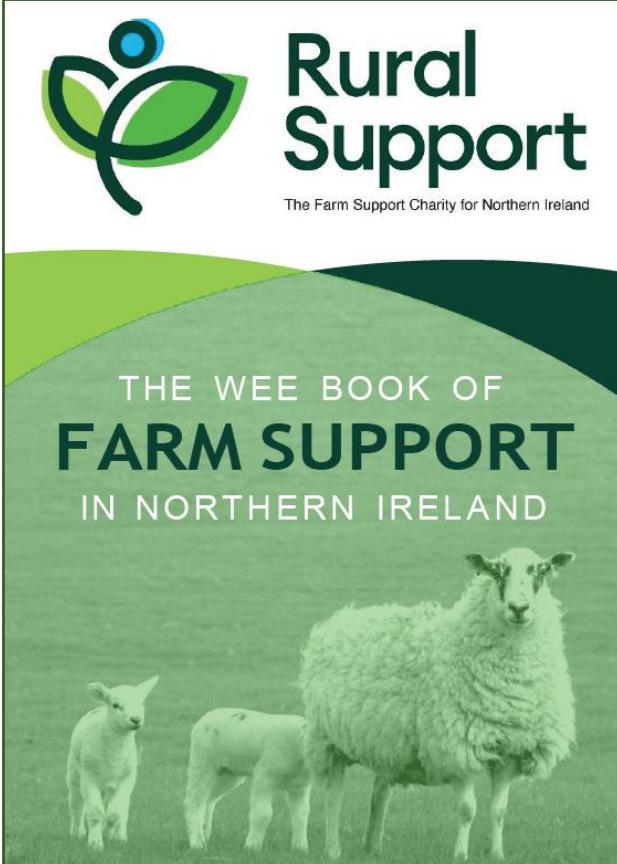
Anyone affected by harmful or manipulated images, or involved in creating or sharing them, is urged to contact their school, college or youth club safeguarding lead, or the police

Further advice is available on the **Online Safety Hub**, which includes guidance on [AI and Emerging Technologies](#) explaining the key safeguarding concerns to be aware of and how to respond

To assist professionals, the SBNI and partners have produced '**Child Sexual Abuse Material Generated by Artificial Intelligence: An Essential Guide for Professionals Who Work with Children and Young People**'
(See next page to download the pdf document)



<https://onlinesafetyhub.safeguardingni.org/uploads>



Rural Support
The Farm Support Charity for Northern Ireland

**THE WEE BOOK OF
FARM SUPPORT
IN NORTHERN IRELAND**

Rural Support provides a range of programmes and services for farmers and farm families in support of their business and personal wellbeing. All support is accessible via our freephone confidential Support Line 0800 138 1678, which is open Monday to Friday 9am to 9pm.

These include;

- ✓ On-farm Business Support
- ✓ Bereavement and Loss Support
- ✓ Person-Centred Support
- ✓ Farm Business Programmes
- ✓ Support for Older Farmers
- ✓ Social Farming Support Service
- ✓ Agri Sector Training.



Support Line:
0800 138 1678

General Enquiries:
028 8676 0040

Email:
info@ruralsupport.org.uk

Website:
www.ruralsupport.org.uk



 www.ruralsupport.org.uk

 Department of
Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs
[www.daera-ni.gov.uk](http://daera-ni.gov.uk)

 HSC Public Health
Agency
 The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service

 Helplines NI
listen. support. inform

 NFU Mutual

 **Rural Support**

Unit 3, Part 2nd Floor,
Molesworth Place, Molesworth Street,
Cookstown, Co. Tyrone, BT80 8NX

JC51676 02/25 www.coleraineprinting.com



FACTS MATTER.

At FactCheckNI we want to empower everyone in NI with accurate information to help them understand the world around them. Our fact checking articles are free for anyone to access.

THINK.
CHECK.
SHARE.

factcheckni.org



<https://factcheckni.org>



The CYPSP Translation Hub provides you with important information on Health, Education, Housing, Employment, Government Services, Cost of living, Contacts for support and much more.....

English

CYPSP
Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership

Flags of various countries: Bulgaria, Hungary, Ireland, Poland, Lithuania, Philippines, Portugal, Romania, China, India, and Arabic.

www.cypsp.hscni.net/translation-hub

Icons representing various services: Health, Family Support, SureStart, Careers, Cost of Living Crisis, Education, Housing, Employment, Safety / Community, Police, Money/rent Advice, COVID-19, Government Services, Totara Translated Information, Ukraine Advice, Sign Language, EU Settlement Migration, and Youth Wellness Web.

 <https://cypsp.hscni.net/translation-hub>



Youth Wellness Web

A place where everyone deserves to be helped at any time, no matter how big or small the problem is!

If you're struggling, it's okay to reach out:

Visit cypsp.hscni.net/youth-wellness-web/

Call Childline on: 0800 1111

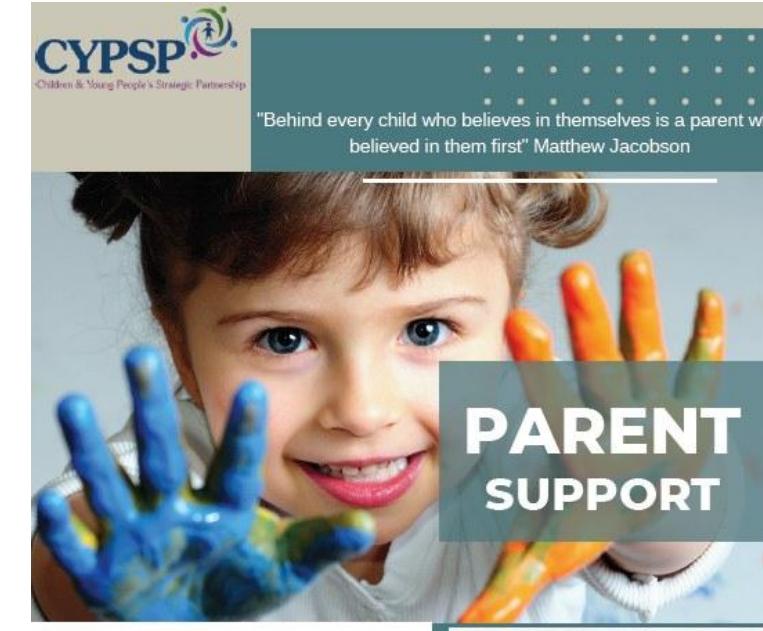
Call LIFELINE on: 0808 808 8000

Text Shout: 852558

Deaf & hard of hearing textphone users: 18001 0808 808 8000

Scan QR code

 <https://cypsp.hscni.net/youth-wellness-web>



Resources to help you:

Your influence as a parent is one of the most significant factors in your child's life chances. We want to support and work with you as the primary care giver and educator for your children to ensure what we offer is meaningful, consistent and available at the point of need.

Scan QR codes or visit our parents support pages for lots of advice, information, support services, parenting programmes and much more



<https://cypsp.hscni.net/youth-wellness-web/parent-teacher-zone> / <https://cypsp.hscni.net/ebpp/>

**Parent Line NI™**
0808 8020 400

Separated Dad? You're not alone.

DADS TALK



Safe Space for Separated dads

-  Virtual meet ups by zoom
-  Real talk, shared Experiences
-  Phone Parentline on 0808 8020 400
for information on self-referral.

 0808 8020 400

Parents, carers, family members...

If you need us
we're here

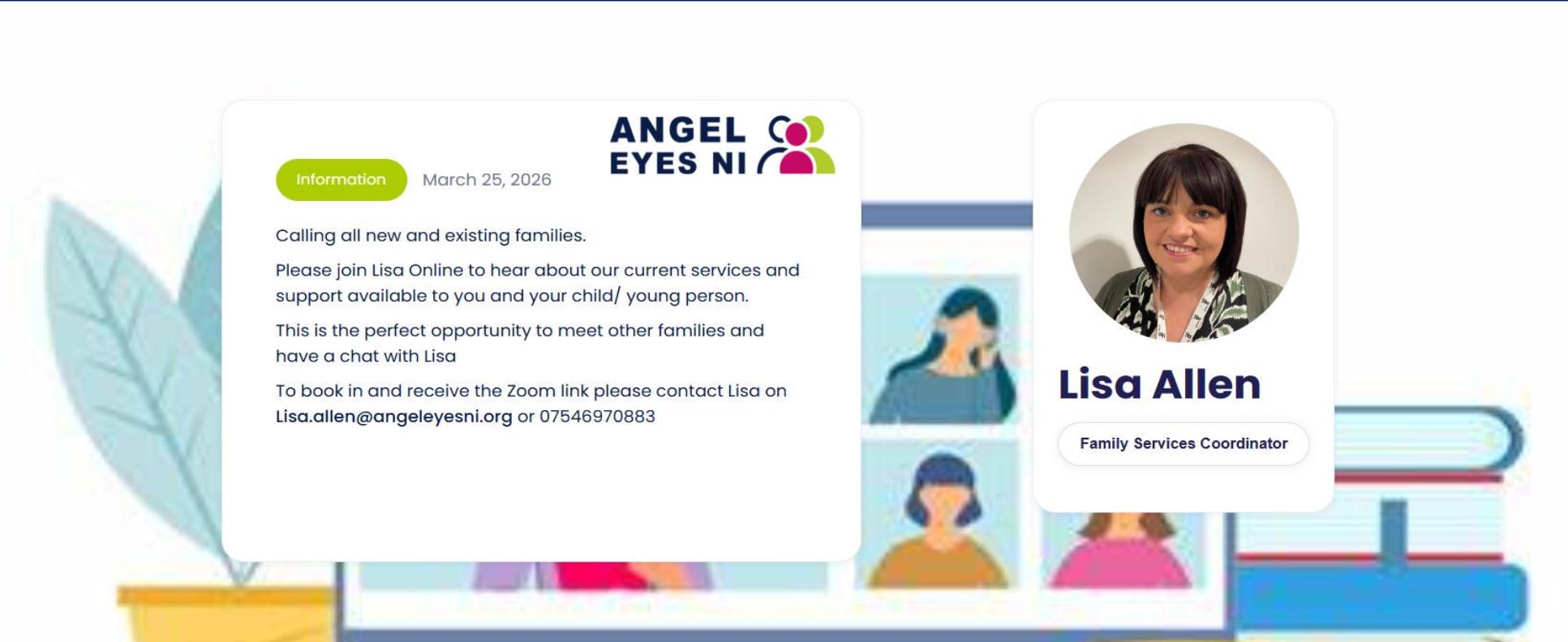
0808 8020 400



 0808 8020 400

 parentline@ci-ni.org.uk

 www.ci-ni.org.uk/parentline



Information March 25, 2026

ANGEL EYES NI

Calling all new and existing families.

Please join Lisa Online to hear about our current services and support available to you and your child/ young person.

This is the perfect opportunity to meet other families and have a chat with Lisa

To book in and receive the Zoom link please contact Lisa on Lisa.allen@angeleyesni.org or 07546970883



Lisa Allen

Family Services Coordinator



Lisa.allen@angeleyesni.org

Dementia Information Programme

Promoting good dementia care



Free virtual programme for carers, family and friends of people living with dementia or anyone who has questions about dementia

In partnership with Craigavon and Banbridge Memory Services.
Four consecutive Thursday afternoons from 2 – 4pm on Zoom.

26 February	Introduction to Dementia – Consultant Psychiatrist, Dr Southwell Information, Guidance and Signposting – Dementia Navigators Sheena McSherry and Catherine McCorry
5 March	Changes in Behaviour – Memory Services Nurse, Nina McCabe and Michelle McGirr Carers First, Clansy Group – Michelle Moul
12 March	Driving with Dementia/Memory Impairment – Angela Hutchison Disability action mobility centre Eating, Drinking and Dementia – Joy Sloan, Community Dietitian
19 March	Self-Directed Support - Chris, Centre for independent living Alzheimer's Society Services – Pauline, Dementia Adviser

For more information, please contact: -
Pauline Murphy, Dementia Adviser on 07725 215610 or
email southern@alzheimers.org.uk for Zoom link



Together we are help & hope
for everyone living with dementia



Registered charity no. 296645. Alzheimer's Society operates in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.



southern@alzheimers.org.uk

Services Available Through The Hub May Include...

Practical Support
Disability Support
Drug & Alcohol Support
Emotional Health & Wellbeing
Signposting to Other Supports
Family Support
Education Support
Advice & Guidance
Youth Support
Parenting Programmes
Behaviour Support
Parenting Support

"The hub linked me with services I didn't know existed"
"It was so simple to make a referral and I got the help I needed"

"After a friend recommended that I contact the hub, I rang and spoke to the hub co-ordinator who helped me to make a self-referral!"



There Are 3 Family Support Hubs In the Southern Trust Area

ARMAGH & DUNGANNON HUB

Caroline Williamson
PosAbility, Barnardos
Grange Building Tower Hill
Armagh
BT61 9DR
M: 07514 724926
T: 028 3741 4541

CRAIGAVON & BANBRIDGE HUB

Lisa Grant
NIACRO
26 Carleton Street, Portadown Co. Armagh
BT62 3EP
T: 028 38331168
E: family.supporthub@niacro.co.uk

NEWRY & MOURNE HUB

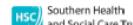
Alison Slater
Bolster Community
Unit 1, Killeavy Road
Newry
BT35 6UA
T: 028 3083 5764
E: family.supporthub@bolstercommunity.org



Ont Design & Print 07888 512722

**Southern Area
FAMILY
SUPPORT HUB**

Many families need a little extra help sometimes



The 3 **Family Support Hubs** in the Southern Area continue to operate as normal and are open for referrals

Please make any **referrals** by e-mail [HERE](#)

Download the **December edition** of the **Family Support Hubs** newsletter [HERE](#)

Click on the below thumbnail to watch the **Southern Area Family Support Hub promotional video**



What is the Family Support Hub?

- The Family Support Hub is a meeting of representatives from community, voluntary and statutory organisations who deliver services for children and families in your area.
- Each Family Support Hub has a lead body who co-ordinates the meeting and receives the referrals.
- The members of the Family Support Hub are from a range of statutory and community/voluntary agencies who offer services in your area. These agencies include; Education Welfare, Health Visiting, Womens Aid, Homestart, Social Services Surestart and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services.
- Referrals will not be accepted without your consent. If the young person you are seeking support for is over 16, they must also sign the referral form.
- For more information follow this link <https://vimeo.com/216493917>

Your Family Support Hub Will

- Meet once a month to discuss referrals to identify and connect you and your family to the service you need at a time when you need it.
- Work in partnership with you and your family.
- Act professionally ensuring all information is treated in a confidential manner.

How The Hub Works

A referral form is submitted to your local hub-coordinator.

The Hub Co-ordinator may contact you for more information prior to the Hub meeting.

Hub Co-ordinator will present all referrals received to the monthly meeting. The Hub members will then discuss your referral and aim to match your family to the best service for you.

Only core Hub Members attend the meeting, you will not need to attend.

You will receive a letter from the Hub Co-ordinator to let you know what service was identified as most appropriate to meet your needs.

The service that was identified as most appropriate will then contact you directly.

You can choose whether or not you wish to accept the support that has been offered. You are in control.

What Are The Criteria For Making A Referral To The Hub?

- Your family would like support - this is a voluntary process and you can withdraw your referral at any time.
- You are a family with children aged 0 -17 years.
- No social worker currently involved with your family.

Some of the challenges the Hub can help with



Who Can Refer To The Hub?

- You can make a self-referral to the family support hub or a referral can be made by anyone working on your behalf i.e. teacher, doctor, health visitor or community group.
- You can download a referral form from <http://www.cypsp.hscni.net/family-support-hubs/> or just pick up the phone and call your local family support hub co-ordinator. Details can be found on the back of this leaflet.





**Could you be the change
in a young person's life?**

Supported Lodgings/STAY

Supported lodgings/STAY hosts provide accommodation to care-experienced young people and young refugees, and offer practical and emotional support to guide them towards independent living.

Hosts receive training, support and financial assistance.

0800 0720 137
adoptionandfostercare.hscni.net



The **STAY** project, (**Supported Transition Accommodation for young people**) offers a bedroom to a 16-21 year old, who needs lodging type accommodation. These young people are usually in work, college, apprenticeships or school. They have faced challenges in life, but are managing well, and are close to being able to live independently, but need that final bit of 'long arm' support!

You can be working full-time, or be unemployed, have experience as a parent, or none at all. We will talk you through the process, and explain the financial and emotional support we offer to our hosts and young people, and we do a short assessment and some basic background checks.

You may want to offer a short-term option to a young person who has arrived to NI and has no family supports or networks, a long-term situation, or respite.

All you need is a desire to help, and a spare bedroom.

If you are interested you can contact Fidelma Ruddy **07354168277** or Mark Cooley on **07860918712** for an informal chat, with no obligation



SAY NO TO VAPING 

DID YOU KNOW?

YOUNG PEOPLE WHO VAPE ARE BETWEEN 3 AND 5 TIMES MORE LIKELY TO START SMOKING COMPARED TO THOSE WHO HAVE NEVER VAPED.

HSC Public Health Agency

Say no to vaping!

10-15 vape puffs are roughly equivalent to one cigarette

The Public Health Agency want to encourage and support families to have open and engaging conversations with young people to steer them away from these products

For help and advice on talking to your child about vaping visit [HERE](#)

FREE 1-TO-1 SUPPORT PROVIDED BY VERVE HEALTH TRAINERS



WANT TO CREATE YOUR
OWN PERSONAL HEALTH PLAN?
WANT TO IMPROVE YOUR HEALTH THROUGH MOTIVATION AND SUPPORT?

The Health Trainer Service is:

- Completely FREE!
- Available across the Southern Health and Social Care Trust
- The Health Trainer will:**

 - Help you develop your own personalised health plan
 - Signpost and refer to activities, programmes and services
 - Provide encouragement and motivation to help you achieve your personalised goals

The areas in which the Health Trainer can provide support are:

- Physical activity
- Alcohol awareness
- Eating a healthier diet
- Mental and emotional wellbeing



If you live in the SHSCT and would like to talk to a qualified Health Trainer contact:

Motivational support available by phone or face to face. Self-referrals welcome to this **FREE** service.

www.verve-network.co.uk

Contact the Community Health Trainer Service

T: 028 3756 3946 E: verve.network@southerntrust.hscni.net



SCAN ME

HEALTH TRAINER ONE TO ONE HEALTH AND WELLNESS COACHING

SUPPORTING YOU TO MAKE HEALTHIER CHOICES...



Supporting you to
become more active



Supporting you to look
after your **mental and
emotional wellbeing**



Supporting you to assess **how
much alcohol is too much**



Supporting you to **connect to
services and activities**



Supporting you to **make
healthier eating choices**



Motivational support available by phone or
face to face. Self-referrals welcome to this
FREE service.

www.verve-network.co.uk

Contact the Community Health Trainer Service

T: 028 3756 3946

E: verve.network@southerntrust.hscni.net



SCAN ME



verve.network@southerntrust.hscni.net



ABC COUNCIL AREA

**All about
YOUth**

A conference for those working with
**Children and
Young People**

- Thursday 26th February
- 9.30am-3.30pm
- Craigavon Civic & Conference Centre
- Light refreshments and lunch

 Spaces are limited so booking is essential.



<https://orlo.uk/FtmVC>



Funding ABC Public Engagement Workshops

Join us and have your say on
community grants!

ARMAGH

Hayloft, Palace Demesne
25 February
6.15pm - 8.30pm

PORTADOWN

Town Hall
5 March
6.15pm - 8.30pm

BANBRIDGE

Old Town Hall
3 March
6.15pm - 8.30pm

ONLINE

12 March
6.15pm - 8.30pm

For further information and to register please email
 fap@armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk



armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk



fap@armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk



NETWORKING EVENT
CONNECT, SHARE AND SUPPORT
YOU ARE INVITED!

DO YOU WORK OR VOLUNTEER ACROSS THE COMMUNITY, EDUCATION, VOLUNTARY OR STATUTORY SECTORS AND WISH TO ENHANCE YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE SERVICES AVAILABLE LOCALLY? WE INVITE YOU TO COME ALONG AND CONNECT WITH OTHERS WORKING ACROSS THE AREA.

Benefits:

- Increase awareness of local services
- Share information and support
- Strengthen partnerships
- Make new connections

FREE & REFRESHMENTS

IF YOU ARE A SERVICE PROVIDER AND WOULD LIKE TO HOST A STAND, PLEASE EMAIL SHERENE.LIVINGSTONE@START360.ORG

Website www.drugsandalcoholni.info

REGISTRATION

10.00 - 12.00
5th March 2026
Jethro Centre
Lurgan

Public Health Agency
Project supported by the PHA

drugsandalcoholni
Addressing drugs and alcohol together

PSNI Southern
Ulster

PSP Policing & Community Safety Partnership
Working Through Partnership & Collaboration



[sherene.livingstone@start360.org](mailto:SHERENE.LIVINGSTONE@START360.ORG)



TOGETHER WE WALK 2026

5 KM

International Women's Day

Women's Aid ARMAGH DOWN

Newry Leisure Centre
Saturday 7th March

South Lake Leisure Centre
Sunday 8th March

Walk begins at 10am sharp

Come walk with us to support Ending Violence Against Women & Girls and support WAAD

Registration is essential  **This is a women's only event** womensaidarmaghdown.org/events

Refreshments will be provided at the end of the walk

Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council
Armagh Mourne and Down District Council
Public Health Agency
Project supported by the PHA

Southern Health and Social Care Trust
Promoting Wellbeing DIVISION
Volunteer NOW
Community FUND

getactiveNI
PSP Policing & Community Safety Partnership
Working Through Partnership & Collaboration



[https://womensaidarmaghdown.org/events](http://womensaidarmaghdown.org/events)

ABC COUNCIL AREA

Coffee & Connection

Neurodivergent and need support? Let's talk it over.

 **Saturdays:**

14 February | 14 March | 9 May | 13 June

 **Portadown Wellness Centre, Armagh Road
Portadown**

 **1 pm – 2 pm**

**Let's share stories, swap tips, and find
community over a cuppa.**

Sharon: 02830 8357 64
autismconnect@bolstercommunity.org

BOLSTER
COMMUNITY



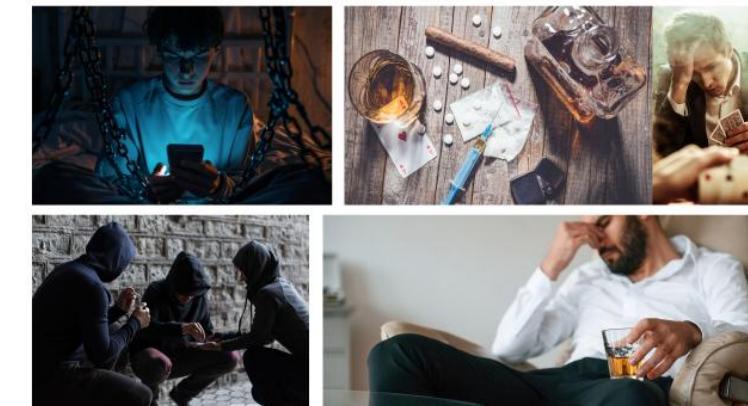
autismconnect@bolstercommunity.org

ABC COUNCIL AREA

YOU ARE NOT ALONE

ADDITION AFFECTS THOUSANDS ACROSS NORTHERN IRELAND AND RECOVERY STARTS WITH REACHING OUT. IN 2022/23, NEARLY 3,000 PEOPLE ACCESSED TREATMENT FOR DRUG OR ALCOHOL MISUSE. AND IN 2023 ALONE, 169 LIVES WERE LOST TO DRUG-RELATED DEATHS — MANY OF THEM YOUNG ADULTS.

ADDITION TAKES MANY FORMS, BUT NO MATTER THE STRUGGLE, **YOU ARE NOT ALONE**. AT HAND OF HOPE NI, WE OFFER REAL HELP, REAL SUPPORT, AND A REAL PATH FORWARD. WHETHER YOU'RE FACING SUBSTANCE MISUSE, EMOTIONAL PAIN, OR JUST NEED SOMEONE TO TALK TO — WE'RE READY TO HELP.



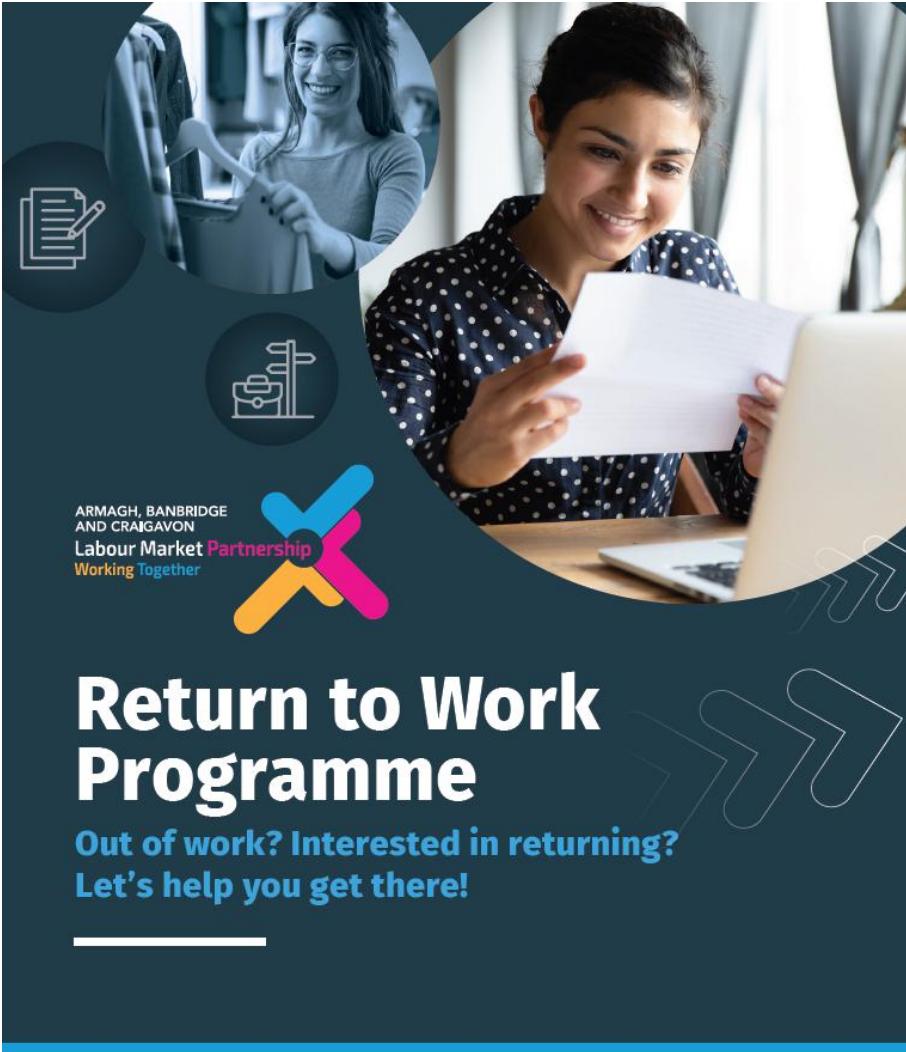
www.handofopeni.com

handofopeni@gmail.com

Emma: 07395347448 Seany: 07922137738
Roisin: 07548 271130 Wayne: 07393430210 Zaira: 07703648683
Website, Logo & Flyer by www.pillarpix.com



handofopeni@gmail.com



ARMAGH, BANBRIDGE
AND CRAIGAVON
Labour Market Partnership
Working Together

Return to Work Programme

Out of work? Interested in returning?
Let's help you get there!



Cora.Green@clanryegroup.com



We're here to help you:

- Build confidence, self-esteem, and motivation
- Gain accredited qualifications and training
 - online and in person
- Receive employment support - job matching, industry visits, CVs, and interview preparation
- Develop new skills and meet others on a similar journey

Eligibility:

- Living in the Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon area
- Economically inactive or unemployed for 6+ months

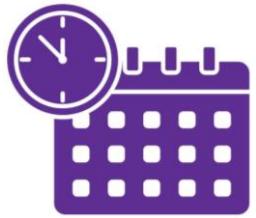
This programme is designed for women and individuals with caring responsibilities, childcare challenges, health issues, or other life circumstances. **Let us help you get the job you want!**

For more information or to register your interest:

📞 0283 089 8119
✉️ Cora.Green@clanryegroup.com
🌐 clanryegroup.com



CRAIGAVON LPG AREA



Commences
THIS
SATURDAY!



DADS & BABIES
5 WEEK INFANT MASSAGE CLASS

“DADDY & ME WHILE MUMMY HAS TEA”

Everybody loves a massage...Especially babies!

Benefits:
better sleep; bonding; relaxation; reduced gas & colic.

- Free for Dads living in Craigavon area & babies (pre crawling).
- Starts Sat 21st Feb '26, 10-11.30am, Mount Zion House, Edward, Lurgan.
- Refreshments, oils & booklets provided. Fully certified IAIM instructor.

To book or find out more:
Call 028 38 345357, DM or Email homestart.craigavon@btopenworld.com

HOME START Official Association of IAIM UK®

TikTok  Instagram  Facebook 



homestart.craigavon@btopenworld.com



HOME START Craigavon

Infant massage courses

Home visiting volunteer Befriender support

Online counselling

Parenting courses

Support for parents with children 0-5 years old

Mount Zion House, Edward Street, Lurgan BT66 6DB

TEL: 028 38345357 Email: homestart.craigavon@btopenworld.com



homestart.craigavon@btopenworld.com

CRAIGAVON LPG AREA



SKILLS CONNECT

Skills Connect is a project supported by PEACEPLUS, a programme managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB). The programme is delivered by Cedar in partnership with the NOW Group, OCN NI, Ulster University and the Dundalk Institute of Technology.

Skills Connect provides person-centred support to empower individuals with disability, autism or brain injury. The programme aims to overcome barriers to employment through skills-based training, attainment of accredited vocational qualifications, and the development of meaningful career pathways.

If you are interested in retraining or upskilling in one of the following areas, Skills Connect is designed for you.

- Hospitality and Tourism
- Health and Social Care
- Green Economy
- Employability Skills

If you would like to speak to a member of the Skills Connect team contact:

Maria Kelly, Employer Liaison Officer
Telephone: 07483520622
Email: maria.kelly@cedar-foundation.org

 **Cedar**
Opportunity Choice Inclusion



maria.kelly@cedar-foundation.org



GARVAGHY HEALTH & WELLBEING FAYRE

'Empowering our community to take better care of ourselves'

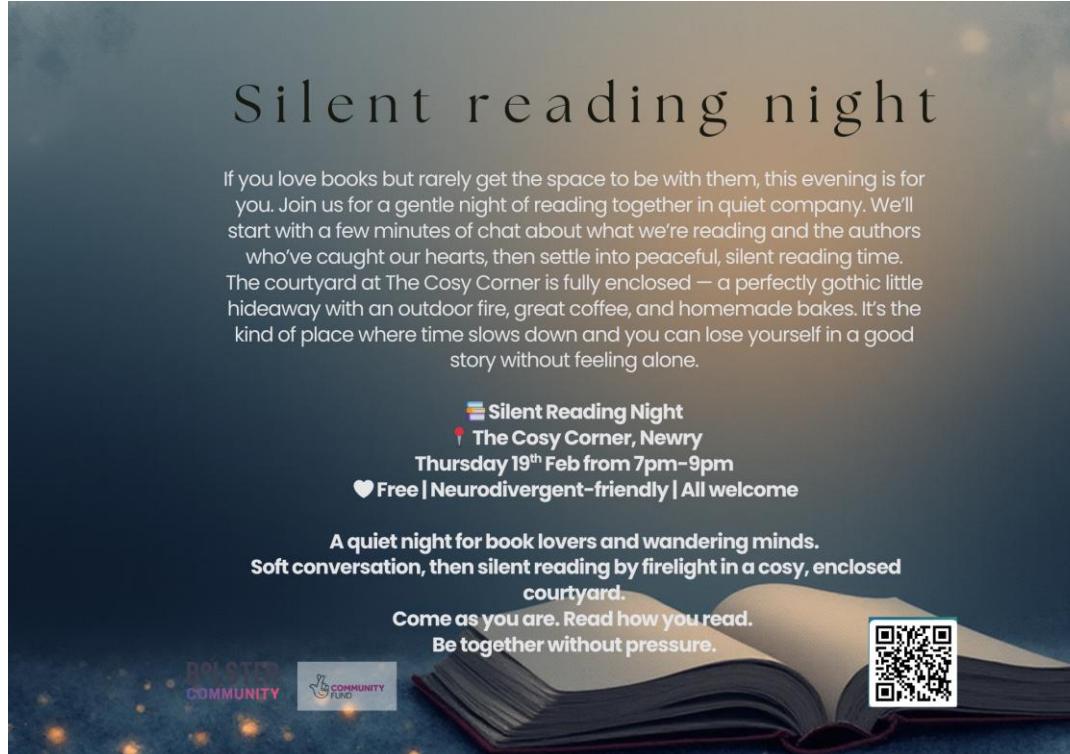
SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY
25 APRIL

FRIDAY 4 **SUNDAY** 2

 10AM to 4PM  Garvaghy Presbyterian Church, 102 Garvaghy Church Road, BT32 3SB

This will be an opportunity to gain information on how to improve your overall health featuring stalls from The Big Bus health checks, ABC council, Rural Chaplaincy, PSNI, TADA Rural Support Network, Carers NI and many more



Silent reading night

If you love books but rarely get the space to be with them, this evening is for you. Join us for a gentle night of reading together in quiet company. We'll start with a few minutes of chat about what we're reading and the authors who've caught our hearts, then settle into peaceful, silent reading time. The courtyard at The Cosy Corner is fully enclosed — a perfectly gothic little hideaway with an outdoor fire, great coffee, and homemade bakes. It's the kind of place where time slows down and you can lose yourself in a good story without feeling alone.

 Silent Reading Night
The Cosy Corner, Newry
Thursday 19th Feb from 7pm-9pm
Free | Neurodivergent-friendly | All welcome

A quiet night for book lovers and wandering minds.
Soft conversation, then silent reading by firelight in a cosy, enclosed courtyard.

Come as you are. Read how you read.
Be together without pressure.



 <https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage>





FAMILY VOLUNTEERING

WE NEED HELP WITH

- Oxfam jewellery relabelling
help us label stock to be sold in
Oxfam charity shops
- Sat 21 Feb 2026 @ 10.30am
in Newry Library

INTERESTED IN JOINING US?

Contact Bronagh:
07708 077 954
bronagh.demeillers@volunteernow.co.uk





bronagh.demeillers@volunteernow.co.uk



Community Safety & Wellbeing Event

NEWRY LEISURE CENTRE
FRIDAY 6TH MARCH
10AM-1PM

PSP Policing & Community Safety Partnership making Newry, Mourne & Down safer

drugsand alcoholni Addressing drugs and alcohol together

FREE ADVICE
GOODIE BAGS
LOCAL SERVICES
HEALTH CHECKS

SPRING INTO WELLNESS

AMBULANCE FIRE ENGINE POLICE

This poster promotes a Community Safety & Wellbeing Event at the Newry Leisure Centre on Friday 6th March from 10am to 1pm. It features a signpost with four arrows pointing to 'FREE ADVICE', 'GOODIE BAGS', 'LOCAL SERVICES', and 'HEALTH CHECKS'. Below the signpost is a graphic of people working together on a large puzzle piece surrounded by leaves and butterflies, with the text 'SPRING INTO WELLNESS' at the bottom. The event is organized by the Policing & Community Safety Partnership (PSP) and drugsand alcoholni.



Kaitlyn.Martin@nmandd.org



TOGETHER WE WALK 2026 5 KM

Women's Aid ARMAGH DOWN International Women's Day

Newry Leisure Centre Saturday 7th March

South Lake Leisure Centre Sunday 8th March

Walk begins at 10am sharp

Come walk with us to support Ending Violence Against Women & Girls and support WAAD

Registration is essential womensaidarmaghdown.org/events This is a women's only event

Refreshments will be provided at the end of the walk

Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon District Council, The Bluebell Project, Newry Mourne and Down District Council, Public Health Agency, HSC and Social Care Trust, Promoting Wellbeing Division, VOLUNTEER NOW, COMMUNITY FUND, getactive.ni, PSP Policing & Community Safety Partnership

This poster promotes the 'TOGETHER WE WALK 2026' event organized by Women's Aid Armagh Down for International Women's Day. The walk will be held in two locations: Newry Leisure Centre on Saturday 7th March and South Lake Leisure Centre on Sunday 8th March, both starting at 10am. The event aims to support Ending Violence Against Women & Girls and support WAAD. Registration is essential and can be done at womensaidarmaghdown.org/events. Refreshments will be provided at the end of the walk. The poster lists several local and national partners involved in the event.



<https://womensaidarmaghdown.org/events>



**Walking
Warriors**

**AUTISM
CONNECT**

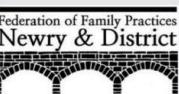
Autism Connect: A Social Program for Autistic Adults (awaiting or identify).

Starting Friday
13th March
(Running fortnightly)

Meeting @Grounded, Newry 6 pm
The goal is to get out and chat at your own pace.

Interested? Register with
Sharon : 02830 8357 64

autismconnect@bolstercommunity.org







autismconnect@bolstercommunity.org



Coffee & Connection

Neurodivergent and need support? Let's talk it over.


Saturdays:

25 April | 29 May | 27 June | 29 August

● Bolster Marcus St Office, Newry

⌚ 11 am – 1 pm

Let's share stories, swap tips, and find community over a cuppa.

Sharon: 02830 8357 64
autismconnect@bolstercommunity.org






autismconnect@bolstercommunity.org



**HOME
START**
Newry & Mourne

FREE TASTER TRAINING SESSION

Home-Start Newry & Mourne

We can offer a one hour taster session to your group including:

Sleep 	Sensory Play 
Play 	Incredible Years Awareness 
Infant Massage 	Baby Yoga 
Drawing & Talking Therapy 	Sand Therapy 
Preparing for Baby 	

One hour taster session available
FREE of charge at **your venue!**

Contact us to register your interest:

Email: info@homestartnewry.com
Call: 028 302 66139 / 028 417 64120

Full courses available on request



info@homestartnewry.com



**RECRUITING
NOW**



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Are you a mum, dad, grandparent or carer?
We need people with your experience to volunteer
at your local Home-Start.

- Make a difference to the lives of parents and children
- Enhance your well-being
- Access free, high quality training

Find out more:
www.home-start.org.uk/volunteertoday

**HOME
START**



www.home-start.org.uk/volunteertoday

NEWRY & MOURNE LPG AREA



info@newrysurestart.org

DUNGANNON LPG AREA



 dungannon@thehygienebank.com /  07411139550

ANGEL EYES NI

Dungannon Family Day

Saturday 18th April

What to expect?

Fitness Freddie accessible movement fun

Bouncy castles

Petting Farm

Arts and crafts, sensory play and snacks

Join us - Booking essential - E-mail Janine

 Janine.Dougan@angeleyesni.org

SUBMISSION

Submit the information in the format you would like it to be included. We can't transform a word-heavy document into a flyer.

Less words, bigger pictures!

We do not advertise or endorse those events or programmes which are privately funded as a business.

Information will usually be included for x1 edition, unless otherwise requested.

GUIDELINES

'FYI' will usually be issued every three weeks, on a Thursday. Please send your articles for inclusion by 4pm of the Tuesday prior to this.

We may have to decline to advertise information which is not applicable to better outcomes for children and young people.

Your feedback is welcome. (We are not perfect, but strive to be as good as we can.)

Please let us know if 'FYI' has helped your service, event or activity in any way.



Click on the below issue nos. to view recent editions of 'FYI':

[Issue 161](#)

29th January 2026

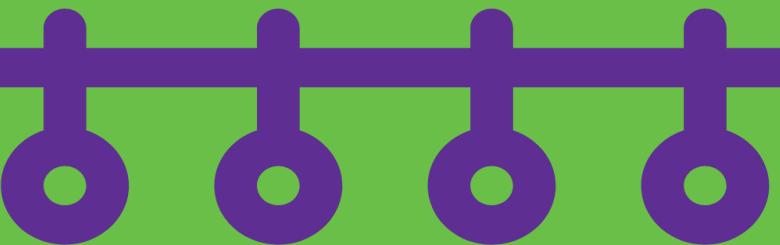
[Issue 160](#)

8th January 2026





SOUTHERN AREA LOCALITY PLANNING GROUPS

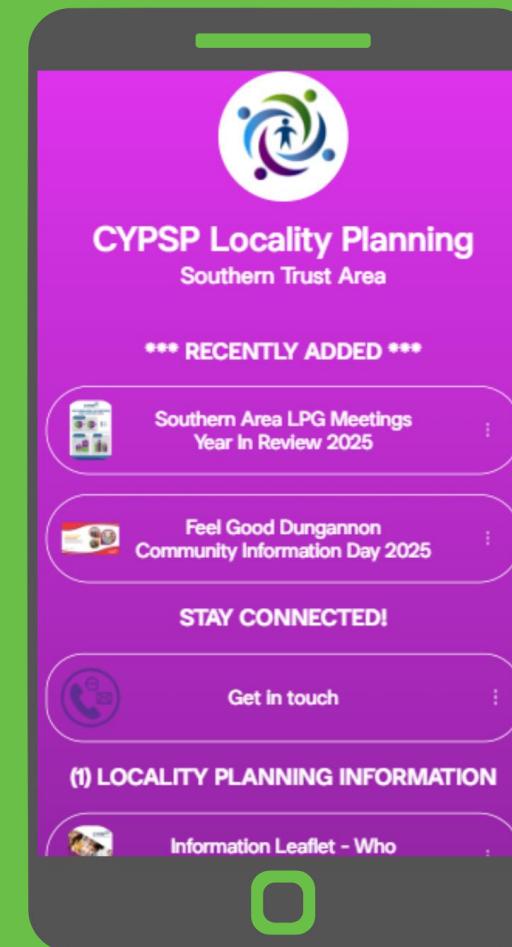


UPCOMING 2025 LPG MEETINGS

Armagh
Craigavon
South Armagh
Banbridge
Newry & Mourne
Dungannon

Thur. 5th Mar
Tues. 10th Mar
Tues. 24th Mar
Wed. 15th Apr
Wed. 22nd Apr
Tues. 28th Apr

Meetings are usually scheduled to begin at 10am
Formats will alternate between face-to-face & Zoom
(Refer to the Meetings Calendar on our [Linktree](#))



SCAN QR CODE
FOR INSTANT
ACCESS TO OUR
INFO. HUB

For further information on Locality Planning or 'FYI', contact:

Joanne Patterson (localityplanning@ci-ni.org.uk)

CYPSP, 2nd Floor, Health & Social Care Board, Tower Hill, Armagh. BT61 9DR



'FYI' NEWSLETTER CALENDAR
JANUARY TO JUNE 2026



JAN

ISSUE 160 Publication: 8th | Deadline: 6th
ISSUE 161 Publication: 29th | Deadline: 27th

FEB

ISSUE 162 Publication: 19th | Deadline: 17th

MAR

ISSUE 163 Publication: 12th | Deadline: 10th

APR

ISSUE 164 Publication: 2nd | Deadline: 31st
ISSUE 165 Publication: 23rd | Deadline: 21st

MAY

ISSUE 166 Publication: 14th | Deadline: 12th

JUN

ISSUE 167 Publication: 4th | Deadline: 2nd
ISSUE 168 Publication: 25th | Deadline: 23rd



Please submit your artwork in a
print-ready format (jpeg, png or pdf)
to localityplanning@ci-ni.org.uk



Advertise in our upcoming issue!

**Circulation Date:
12th March 2026**
**Copy Deadline:
10th March 2026**



localityplanning@ci-ni.org.uk



Sign up to receive 'FYI' Newsletter TODAY!

E-mail: localityplanning@ci-ni.org.uk

