

# Youth Voice Conference 2025



## Background of the Youth Voice Conference

Down Locality Planning group were delighted to be invited to; **Newry, Mourne & Down Youth Council** Youth Conference for the young people of the district. Held on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2025 in the Burrendale Hotel, Newcastle. The conference was planned, organised and run by young people from the Youth Voice group for young people engaging in youth groups across the district of Newry, Mourne & Down.

The Newry, Mourne & Down Youth Council are a consultative group which gives young people the opportunity to engage with decision makers and have a say on local issues. This group has been set up in partnership with Newry, Mourne & Down District Council and the group work very closely with the District Council, in particular Community Planning as the representative voice of young people for this district.

This conference was kindly sponsored by the Newry, Mourne & Down District Council with support from Policing and Community Safety Partnership, Police Service of Northern Ireland, as well as EA FLARE and REACH programmes.

The Youth Engagement Conference brought together a diverse group of stakeholders and young people to explore and address key community planning priorities across three central themes: **Safety**, **Health**, and **Education**. This initiative aimed to empower youth voices, build essential life and professional skills, and strengthen partnerships across community services.

### Find Out More:

For more information on the role of the CYPSP Down Locality Planning Group please visit;

[www.cypsp.org/locality-planning-groups/down-locality-planning-group](http://www.cypsp.org/locality-planning-groups/down-locality-planning-group)

### Contact Us:

Noelle Hollywood, Community Health Development Practitioner, SEHSCT by email at [noelle.hollywood@setrust.hscni.net](mailto:noelle.hollywood@setrust.hscni.net)

### CYPSP's Strategy for NI High Level Outcome Contributions

All Children and Young People experience economic and environmental wellbeing.

All Children and Young People live in safety and stability

All Children and Young People Learn and Achieve

### Contributing to the Newry Mourne and Down Community

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

All people in Newry Mourne and Down fulfil their lifelong potential



## Youth Voice Conference; what did we do?

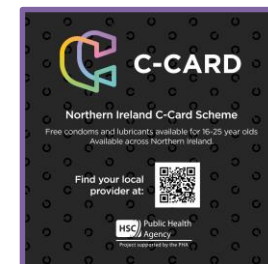
The following organisations played a pivotal role in facilitating workshops, presentations, and interactive sessions:

- *Spanner in the Works* Theatre Company
- Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI)
- Police Community Safety Partnership (PCSP)
- Southern & South-Eastern Health and Social Care Trusts
- Women's Tech
- Education Authority (EA) FLARE Team
- South Eastern Regional College (SERC)
- Healthy Kids
- EA REACH Programme



## Youth Voice Conference how did we do it ?

- Hosted by Newry Mourne and Down District Youth Council
- Stalls by 9 different services
- Funding by NMADDC, EA Flare and Reach, PCSP & PSNI
- The conference focused on three core themes directly aligned with the strategic outcomes of the NMADDC Community Plan:
- Safety
- Health
- Education
- Each theme was explored through workshops, activities, and creative sessions to ensure young people's voices were both heard and actioned



# Is anyone better off?

- **Total number of individuals engaged: 192**
- **Youth Voice participants engaged: 24**
- **Community groups engaged: 15**
- **Workshop facilitators involved: 9**
- “The Youth Engagement Conference successfully created a meaningful space for young people from across Newry, Mourne and Down to engage, learn, and contribute to community planning. The skills gained, partnerships formed, and themes explored strengthen the links for continued youth involvement in strategic planning across the district.” Paul Fitzsimons EA



# Is anyone better off, quotes from participants.

The conference made young people more aware of the current issues in the Newry, Mourne and Down Council area and how the overall themes align with Community Planning key priorities.

“We feel a sense of pride and accomplishment when we showcased our work.”

We were presented with a fantastic opportunity to showcase our creative side.”