



Schools Networking Event

[Newry & Mourne and South Armagh Areas]

Wednesday 4th February 2026

SCORECARD 26.2

Background



The **Newry & Mourne and South Armagh LPGs** are a partnership of statutory, voluntary, and community organisations working to improve outcomes for children and young people in the Newry & Mourne and South Armagh Areas.

Each meeting five times a year, the groups share information, build connections, identify local needs, and work together to address them.

The groups are supported by the **Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership (CYPSP)**.

Feedback from discussions held at **RAISE Locality Reference Group** meetings for Newry, Cloughreagh and Bessbrook had indicated that schools were unaware of the range of existing support services they can link into in the community.

The Schools Networking Event aimed to raise awareness of local support services in both the Newry & Mourne and South Armagh Areas with school staff, including services for children, young people and families/parents/carers.

(Find out more about the RAISE Programme [HERE](#))

Background

The Newry & Mourne and South Armagh Schools Networking Event made a contribution to all **8 High Level Outcomes for Children in the 2020-30 NI Children and Young People's Strategy** relating to the well-being of children and young people.

Bringing together a wide range of local organisations from statutory, community and voluntary sectors, the event offered a unique opportunity for both primary and post-primary schools to engage directly with local service providers, while enabling local organisations to strengthen connections and explore opportunities for future collaboration.



What did we do?

Schools Networking Event at **Newry High School** on **Wednesday 4th February 2026**

A **3 hour** event to give the opportunity for school staff to meet with support services for children, young people and families in the Newry & Mourne and South Armagh Locality Areas





Planning Group consisted of **14** members representing **12** different services/agencies/organisations

What did we do?

Event Hosted By

Newry High School

Refreshments Funded By

Newry, Mourne & Down District Council
Newry DEA



What did we do?

40 Services

registered for an information table

14 Schools

registered for staff to attend on the day

16 Pupils

from Newry High School volunteered on the day



Resource Produced

with info. on all services attending on the day

Event Evaluations

taken from services & schools to obtain feedback



How well did we do it?



90

People registered on the day



37

Information Stands attended the day



16

Schools & Education Welfare Service registered on the day

(Some registrants did not include the name of their service/school)

NETWORKING EVENT



CONNECTING SCHOOLS WITH LOCAL SUPPORT SERVICES

Come along to our networking event to learn about the range of support for children, young people and families available across Newry & Mourne and South Armagh

YOU ARE INVITED!

The event is aimed at School Staff from **Primary** and **Post Primary Schools** and ALL relevant **Service Providers** in the local area

Light refreshments will be available on the day

Wednesday
4th February 2026
2pm to 5pm
Newry High School

REGISTER TO ATTEND

If you are a **service provider**, click [HERE](#) to register your information stall for FREE

If you are a member of **school staff**, please let us know how many from your school are coming, by e-mailing: localityplanning@ci-ni.org.uk

Kindly hosted by:



31

Stall Holders

completed and submitted an evaluation form

17

School Staff

completed and submitted an evaluation form



Low Cost Event

Light refreshments for attendees were funded by Newry Mourne & Down District Council Newry DEA and Newry High School kindly hosted the event in their Assembly Hall

How well did we do it?



How would you rate the value of this event today to connect school staff with local support for young people and families?

TOTAL

100%

agreed the event was
'Extremely Useful' or
'Useful'

75%

(36 out of 48 Respondents)
agreed the event was
'Extremely Useful'

STALL HOLDERS

100%

agreed the event was
'Extremely Useful' or
'Useful'

74%

(23 out of 31 Respondents)
agreed the event was
'Extremely Useful'

SCHOOL STAFF

100%

agreed the event was
'Extremely Useful' or
'Useful'

76%

(13 out of 17 Respondents)
agreed the event was
'Extremely Useful'

How well did we do it?

[STALL HOLDERS]



How would you rate the value of this event today to connect school staff with local support for young people and families?

It was a good event to make connections for future projects and programmes.

Met a wide range of people who want to access support from our service for C&YP. Also met many other organisations that I hadn't met before.

Well organised event. Pupils were amazing. Love the networking sheet as well. Fruit great!

We were able to connect with lots of schools and teaching staff, bridging education & wider community.

Excellent for networking and engaging with Primary Schools, our next target audience!

How well did we do it?

[SCHOOL STAFF]



How would you rate the value of this event today to connect school staff with local support for young people and families?

I felt this was a fantastic opportunity to find out about the services available to young people

Good selection of support agencies. Great to have everyone in one place.

Info I had heard of but not accessed.

Knew some of the services – some just discovered today!

Lots of variety of information and even if they were not relevant to my sector they signposted me to another stall holder.

Lots of services that I was previously unaware of.

How well did we do it?

[STALL HOLDERS]



How effective was today's event for your service/organisation in connecting with local schools?

97%

agreed the event was
'Extremely Useful' or **'Useful'**

70%

agreed the event was
'Extremely Useful'



(32 out of 33 Respondents)



(23 out of 33 Respondents)

How well did we do it?

[STALL HOLDERS]



How effective was today's event for your service/organisation in connecting with local schools?

Wide range of schools attended both Primary & port primary. Many contacts made – wanting follow up.

Lots of links made for collaboration work, & finding out what's happening in the community.

We support schools & transitions for brain injury but schools aren't usually aware we can help them.

It was effective because we were able to say that we could give our service within schools. Some very useful links made & plans in place for provision.

Great to speak to individuals & explain services. We had a lot of interest in registering to get our resources.

What changed as a result? [STALL HOLDERS]



Roughly how many school staff did you speak with at your stall?

(Try to give a number of people you spoke with to give them information about your service /organisation?)

545

Information stallholders collectively spoke with **545 members of school staff** on the day



On average how many pieces of information would you have given to visitors to your stall?

(Give a rough estimate on the number of things you would have told?)

1,516

1,516 pieces of information were estimated to have been given by Information stallholders to school staff on the day

What changed as a result? [SCHOOL STAFF]



Roughly how many services did you speak with today?

263

School staff collectively reported speaking with **263 services** on the day



How many of the services you spoke to were new to you / your school?

84

School staff reported **84 new services** to all schools in total



What changed as a result? [SCHOOL STAFF]



How likely are you to use any of the information or these services for the benefit of your school in the future?

100%

said they were **'Extremely Likely'** or **'Likely'** to use the information or these services for the benefit of their school in the future

70%

said they were **'Extremely Likely'** to use the information or these services for the benefit of their school in the future



(17 out of 17 Respondents)



(12 out of 17 Respondents)

What changed as a result?



STALL HOLDERS

TBC



The event was **well organised** with a **welcoming atmosphere** and **strong engagement**. Attendees valued **face-to-face networking**, making **new connections, promoting services**, and **strengthening collaboration** between schools and community organisations. Many **useful links** and **follow-ups** were established. Suggestions included **increasing school staff attendance** and **hosting more events throughout the year in different locations**.

SCHOOL STAFF



The event was **well organised** and provided a **valuable opportunity to discover and better understand** the **wide range of services** available to support young people and families. Attendees appreciated **face-to-face connections, improved awareness** and **practical resources**. Many highlighted the **importance of signposting** and expressed a desire for **similar events to be repeated**.



[STALL HOLDERS]

What is your take-home message about today's event?

We can all work together & use professional guidance to help support our community & young people.

It's good to talk! You easily forget the services out there.

Knowledge of services & ability to work together can make massive change.

In person networking invaluable for spreading & receiving info.

Partnership works. Great to see the student volunteers. Networking in person makes the difference.



[SCHOOL STAFF]

**What is your
take-home
message about
today's event?**

**It was lovely to meet the faces
behind the organisations and
to see how much support
there is available.**

**The help is there, you
just need to be pointed
in the right direction.**

**Fantastic event.
I am definitely more
informed.
Repeat again!**

**Schools need these
events to know who can
help us provide the best
support to our students
& families.**

**Delighted to speak to these
organisations who could
offer help & guidance for the
needs of pupils in my school.
Thanks.**

Find out more...



To obtain a list of all the stall holders from the day, along with a short description of their service, e-mail localityplanning@ci-ni.org.uk

Please also feel free to e-mail us with any queries you might have about inviting organisations into your school to provide activities, workshops or talks
(We have a wide range of contacts and can try to connect you with local recognised services)



Newry & Mourne LPG

SCAN QR
CODES TO
VISIT OUR
DEDICATED
WEBPAGES



South Armagh LPG



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