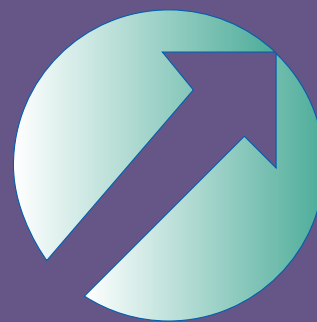


Newry and Mourne Enterprise Agency is a member of Enterprise Northern Ireland, the Federation of Local Enterprise Agencies.



STAFF / AGENDA



2022-23 NEWRY AND MOURNE ENTERPRISE ACTIVITY REPORT

2022-23

www.nmea.net

presented at the forty-ninth Annual General Meeting of NEWRY & MOURNE CO-OPERATIVE LIMITED incorporating NEWRY & MOURNE ENTERPRISE AGENCY and NEWRY & MOURNE DEVELOPMENTS LIMITED

Held on Monday the 18th of December 2023 at 1:00 pm.

AGENDA

1. Chairman's Business, Chairman, Peter McEvoy.
2. Apologies.
3. Minutes of last Annual General Meeting.
4. Chairman's Report.
5. Enterprise Agency Report.
6. Financial Director's Report.
7. Auditor's Report.
8. Elections to Board of Directors.
9. Election of Corporate Representatives to Annual General Meeting of Newry and Mourne Developments PLC.
10. To re-appoint Fitzpatrick & Kearney Accountants as Auditors to the company.
11. Guest speakers.

By Order of the Board, Michael Hughes, Hon. Secretary.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairman: Peter McEvoy
Vice-Chairman: Kevin Starrs
Secretary: Michael Hughes
Directors: Gordon Coulter MBE, Ronan Denny, Brendan Jackson, Davy Hyland, Claire McCullough, John MacMahon, Kevin Magill and Frank O'Connor.

BANKERS

Ulster Bank, Hill Street, Newry.

AUDITORS

Fitzpatrick & Kearney,
10c Marcus Square, Newry.

SOLICITORS

Donnelly, Neary & Donnelly,
Downshire Road, Newry.

NEWRY & MOURNE CO-OPERATIVE STAFF 2022-23

Dr Conor Patterson	Chief Executive
Liam Quinn	Financial Controller and Principal Business Advisor
Jennifer Malone	Business Development Executive (Property)
Colin Hanna	Information, Research and Computer Technology Co-ordinator
Stephen McClelland	Social Economy Advisor
Pauline Coghlan	Work4Uplus Programme Manager
Ciara McKenna	Work4Uplus Programme Administrator
Maeve McParland	Education to Employment Programme Manager
Maria Coyle	Finance Officer
Michelle Frost	Receptionist
Carol Magee	Administrator
Rory Carroll	Digital Content Producer
Kieran Mathers	Associate

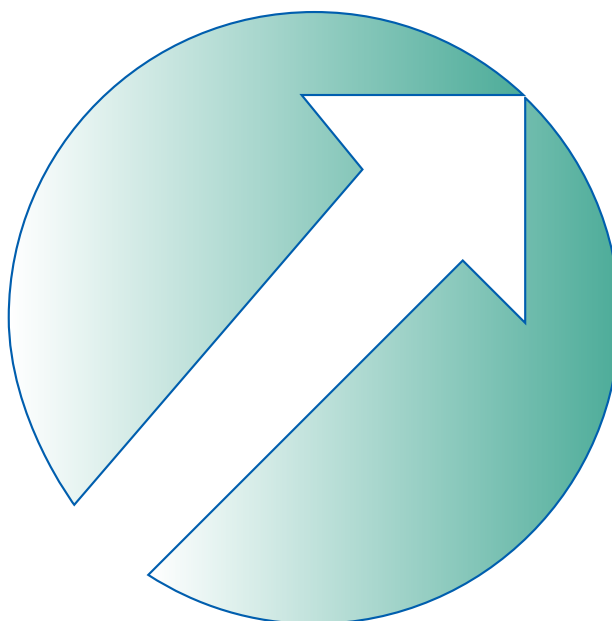
Newry and Mourne Co-operative is a Charity (Charity number: XT25288).

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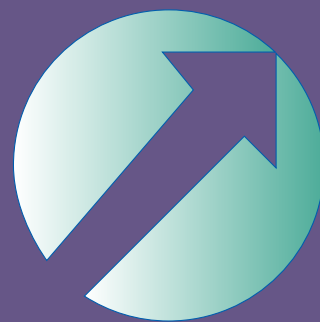
2022-23 NEWRY AND MOURNE ENTERPRISE ACTIVITY REPORT

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



2022-23 NEWRY AND MOURNE ENTERPRISE ACTIVITY REPORT

This report covers the 12 months from April 2022 to March 2023, a period of great uncertainty for this organisation and the people which it serves. N&M Coop & EA faced its biggest funding challenge in the 25 years since the Good Friday Agreement was signed in 1998. A combination of no functioning government at Stormont, austerity cuts imposed by our overlords in London and the ending of EU structural funding in March 2023 with the UK government replacing only a fraction of those monies, meant that programme after programme in our portfolio was coming to an end during the year with no clarity as to whether new sources of finance would be available. This was a challenge also faced by hundreds of non-profit organisations across the north and it has resulted in the sector being severely denuded of experienced staff and capacity.

The NMEA team of dedicated professionals believe in public service. All of them could command much higher salaries in the private sector but they have chosen to commit to this organisation because they believe in what they do. The NM Coop & EA Board took a decision during the year to deficit-fund our team for at least 12 months to give them the space to restructure and to identify and secure new sources of funding. As it has turned out (and only because of the ingenuity of the Enterprise Agency team and the support of our partners in NMDDC, Enterprise NI, the EU and crucially south of the border, especially the Meath and Louth County Local Enterprise Offices), they managed to do just that, restructure and find new sources of finance.

So, we have weathered another storm, but there has been a cost in the diversion of effort away from our core mission and the incalculable stress caused to team members who faced the potential loss of their jobs having worked so hard for so long. And so much of this was unnecessary, the destabilising legacy of Brexit and the resultant lack of political stability in the north. Add to that the stagflation cost-of-living crisis of the last year which put citizens under huge financial pressure and led to the closure of long-established businesses, especially in the retail and hospitality sector. But for colleagues across the border stepping into the breach with support at a key moment during the past year the outcome could have been very different. Thank you to them for the faith they have shown in us.

Looking south today, while all is not perfect by any means, many areas of life there are now measurably so much better than in the north. The north has regressed significantly in the past decade. This must be redressed. Our people from all communities deserve being able to see their graft and resilience translate into improved quality of life especially for the young. South of the border there is of course a functioning sovereign government with control of its own budget and it is a state which is part of the world's biggest market free to attract skilled workers from across the European Union and able to pull in huge levels of foreign direct investment. We saw the difference most starkly during the recent flooding crisis. A compensation package was quickly put together in the south and efficiently administered. We by contrast had to go cap-in-hand and beg our Secretary Of State for support. In the end he deigned to allow the Northern Ireland Civil Service to re-allocate from internal budgets already in deficit to create a fund which would not come close to addressing the flood's impact and the release of which is likely to be slow and bureaucratic. Our health service is in the midst of an existential crisis, our infrastructure is inadequate and what we have is degrading month by month – and not surprisingly our young people are leaving in droves for better wages and better services not just abroad but down south and in Britain. We need change and fast! We need leadership and we need a new configuration of relationships within these islands because one thing for sure, this arrangement is not working and it is badly affecting businesses and entrepreneurs! It is no accident that productivity in the north is 40% per capita less than that in the south.

In the face of these many challenges we did all that we could during the year with our limited and insecure resources to make a positive contribution to helping entrepreneurs to make the best decisions they could to ensure success, to improving trading relationships between businesses in this area and markets elsewhere in Ireland and across Europe, to helping social enterprises to restructure and remain viable,

to protecting and improving free-at-the-point-of-need healthcare, to understanding the implications of a rapidly changing labour market and to helping all our young people (especially those challenged by adversity) to map the most advantageous life and career pathways for them.

Our team achieved so much in the past year despite their own uncertain futures. The number of entrepreneurs we helped to start and grow businesses were higher than they have ever been. All the business parks that we manage across the district were fully occupied because the team worked with our tenants to ensure that they were able to adapt to difficult trading conditions. Our WIN (EU) subsidiary through which we work in the Republic and across the EU has grown from strength to strength, though it is another example of how we have had to design a structure to overcome barriers to the common-good work that we want to do and that others, internationally, want to do with us. But it has been so complicated. It should not have to be this difficult.

Co-ordinating the efforts of committed volunteer health experts, politicians, community and business representatives through the Daisy Hill Future Group to protect and enhance the acute medical services at Daisy Hill Hospital was a particular priority this year for the Board. The Future Group's careful, evidence-based strategy to reshape the decision making of health service planners yielded a number of significant achievements during the year for which we are very proud: confirmation of the long-term future of the hospital's 24/7 ED service, the allocation of funding to upgrade the site's power supply, the opening of an MRI diagnostic suite, securing overnight elective surgery hub status, the transfer of Council Offices at Monaghan Row to the hospital estate to enable expansion and most recently the allocation of specialist new clinical staff including consultants, junior doctors and nurses to Daisy Hill (the result of an international recruitment campaign). There is much more work to be done but we are determined to maintain our commitment to Daisy Hill which is so important to our fellow citizens and to the local economy.

The NI Protocol (with adaptations) is the only framework through which Brexit can happen without requiring the re-imposition of a hard economic border on the island of Ireland. That settlement has given our companies both unfettered access to the British market and to the enormous EU market, an advantage which is unique in the world. The Protocol however only addresses trade in manufactured goods and agri-food products. Unresolved issues of huge significance for our area remain with respect to trade in services and citizens rights. Our efforts to ensure that the Newry and Mourne border region will not be damaged by Brexit will continue in 2024.

This Activity Report speaks to the creativity of dedication of our Enterprise Agency team led by Chief Executive, Dr Conor Patterson, supported ably by Chief Finance Officer and Principal Business Advisor, Liam Quinn. I urge you to read through the details of the various initiatives reported here. Behind all the facts and figures are hundreds of people who this year were the better for working with that team.

In conclusion, I would like to thank my fellow voluntary directors for their continued support. I would like to also thank all of those who helped us during the year: the Department for Communities and the Newry Neighborhood Renewal Partnership, Newry Mourne and Down District Council who continue to show faith in the work that we do, The Big Lottery Fund, Invest Northern Ireland, Newry Chamber of Commerce and Trade, the County Armagh Development Trust, Kilkeel Development Association, the Confederation of Community Groups, Enterprise Northern Ireland, The Meath Local Enterprise Office, the Louth Local Enterprise Office, Southern Regional College, Dundalk Institute of Technology, the institutions of the European Union, our European knowledge exchange partners, our local politicians and the press, local, national and international.

Peter McEvoy
Chairman
18th December 2023

Section 1

PROVISION OF WORKSPACE

2022-23 WIN - Work In Newry

PROVISION OF WORKSPACE

THE ENTERPRISE AGENCY DIVISION'S Mission Statement is "to contribute to the growth and prosperity and thus the social and political stability of the Newry & Mourne region by undertaking enterprise, business, economic and community development initiatives independently and in partnership with others"

Our two main objectives are:

- 1) To increase the stock of new businesses and increase the competitiveness of existing businesses in the Newry & Mourne area; and
- 2) To assist in the strategic development of the region by advising on the efficient allocation of resources, promoting the region as an investment location, and contributing to central and local government policy-making and service delivery.

The range of initiatives which we are now involved in are outlined in this report under the following headings:

- Provision of workspace
- Development of new business and employment
- Cross border/transnational partnerships and trade development
- WIN Consultants (EU)
- Community development
- Influencing policy and promoting the region
- Enterprise Northern Ireland

1. PROVISION OF WORKSPACE

1.1 Affordable workspace - vital economic infrastructure

In 2022/2023 WIN Business Park in Newry city centre, Warrenpoint Enterprise Centre next to Warrenpoint port, Flurrybridge Enterprise Centre on the A1/N1 Newry to Dublin road in South Armagh, Binnian Enterprise Centre at the harbour in Kilkeel and the Regional Development Centre at WIN provided 192,830 sq.ft. of light industrial and office space within which approximately 800 people were employed.

In 2022/2023 we did not lose any of our tenants or see vacancy on our sites increase,

At Flurrybridge, the Enterprise Agency now manages almost 60,000 square feet of high quality light industrial workspace, all of which remained fully occupied during the year. The Flurrybridge site is co-owned with the County Armagh Development Trust (CADET) under the auspices of a joint venture company, Oriel Developments Ltd. Our efforts at Flurrybridge are supported by the Louth Local Enterprise Fund which is represented on the Board of Oriel Developments Ltd.

Binnian Enterprise Centre in Kilkeel is a partnership with Kilkeel Development Association, under the auspices of a joint venture company, Binnian Developments Ltd. During 2022/2023 all of the available workspace at the site was fully occupied.

1.2 ThinkLab

The ThinkLab is a hi-tech resource at WIN Business Park like no other in the region which we deploy to support the development of our economy for the benefit of all in our community during what are likely to be difficult years ahead. It hosted many important meetings during the year including all those of the Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership and the Daisy Hill Future Group and many of the Newry Chamber of Commerce.



Flurrybridge Enterprise Centre



WIN Business Park, Newry



Binnian Enterprise Centre, Kilkeel, South Down



Warrenpoint Enterprise Centre, South Down



The ThinkLab at WIN Business Park

Section 2

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND EMPLOYMENT CREATION



Liam Quinn, NMEA's Principle Business Advisor.

2022-23 NMEA ACTIVITY REPORT

2. BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND EMPLOYMENT CREATION

2.1 The 'Exploring Enterprise' Programme

We are committed to stimulating more enterprise in our society through the promotion of self-employment. Between April 2022 and March 2023, Newry and Mourne Enterprise Agency along with Down Business Centre delivered the Department for the Economy and Newry Mourne and Down District Council-funded Exploring Enterprise Programme. 'Exploring Enterprise' was a pre-business start programme the aim of which was to help improve the prospects of unemployed and economically inactive people by helping them to enhance their employability or to explore the possibility of setting up their own businesses. The Programme was open to anyone of any age not in full-time education, employment or training, with low or no qualifications. Participants had the opportunity to secure a QCF level 1 qualification in Understanding Business Enterprise (accredited by the CCEA). During the year 8 people had personal development pre-assessments completed, with 5 of those going on to complete the training modules required by CCEA to obtain the accredited qualification. All 5 successfully qualified and graduated with a Level 1 certificate in "Understanding Business Enterprise."

2.2 Business Start training and counseling during financial year 2022/2023

Developing the skills of prospective business owner/managers is the key to their future business success.

In the period from April 2022 - March 2023 Newry & Mourne Enterprise Agency continued to provide a comprehensive service package to support the creation of new businesses in the Newry & Mourne area (i.e. South Down, Newry City and South Armagh).

During 2022 the Enterprise Agency and its partner in mid and east Down, Down Business Centre, committed to deliver the Go-For-It NI Business Start-Up Programme in the Newry Mourne and Down district. The Programme was jointly funded by all of the District Councils in Northern Ireland (including Newry Mourne and Down) and the Economy Department. In March 2023 however, the EU financing which had made this and other economic development programmes possible for decades ended. After a period of great uncertainty, funding was secured from the UK Government Levelling Up initiative to enable a replacement "enterprise support service" to be put in place up to March 2025.

During 2022/23, Liam Quinn led the delivery of NMEA's services for entrepreneurs. From April 2022 to March 2023 he helped entrepreneurs in South Down, Newry and South Armagh to produce an average of 14 new start business plans per month (166 start-up business plans were completed over the twelve months from April 2022 to March 2023, 10 ahead of target) As a result of this support 124 new businesses were established during the year in the Newry & Mourne area, creating an estimated 180 jobs. An independent evaluation of this form of support in Northern Ireland has concluded that the survival rate of the early stage businesses which take advantage of it is 80%.

Since 1984, 10,262 people in the Newry and Mourne area have received business start-up support from Enterprise Agency staff.

In the 22 years from April 2001 to March 2023, the Enterprise Agency has helped 2,984 new businesses to set up in South Down, Newry City and South Armagh creating an estimated 5,046 jobs generating tens of millions in additional income for our local economy every year. In aggregate over the last two decades more than £1.2 billion in local purchasing power has been generated by these micro-businesses and the jobs they have supported.

2.3 The Newry Mourne & Down Labour Market Partnership Start-up Business Development Programme

The Newry Mourne and Down Labour Market Partnership was set up in April 2021 by the Department For Communities (DFC) and Newry Mourne and Down District Council to work with employer representatives, educationalists, development agencies and business lobby groups in the Newry Mourne and Down District to adapt the local economy to changes in labour market and to support the



The NMD Business Growth Programme. A major support initiative in the district delivered during the year by NMEA in partnership with Full Circle consultants.



Enterprise Week 2022, co-ordinated by NMEA in partnership with Down Business Centre.



NMEA's Rory Carroll in the WIN Thinklab editing video for broadcast to schools.

Section 2

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND EMPLOYMENT CREATION

2022-23 WIN - Work In Newry

development of a higher skilled workforce, create opportunities for those who are underemployed or unemployed. During the year the Enterprise Agency and Down Business Centre were together appointed by the Partnership to deliver a specialised "accelerator" assistance package to recently established businesses set up by people who had been unemployed or part-time employed in the District with the potential to develop rapidly and become generators of employment and income for the local community. Under the auspices of this initiative NMEA assisted 16 businesses in Newry, South Armagh and South Down in 2022/23. The package included a £500 grant for each business as well as 5 days of specialised mentoring. Other projects supported with financing from the Labour Market Partnership and DFC included specialist training programmes delivered by Southern Regional College, a careers fair and a promotional programme delivered by Newry Chamber of Commerce. During 2022/23 Conor Patterson chaired the Newry Mourne and Down Labour Market Partnership.

2.4 NM&D Business Growth Programme

In 2023/23 NMEA and Down Business Centre together with private sector consultants, Full Circle Ltd, provided support to 24 businesses (11 of which were from the Greater Newry Area) under the Newry Mourne and Down District Council-funded Business Growth Programme. This EU-funded Programme ended in December 2022. Liam Quinn delivered the NMEA elements of the programme.

2.5 The Social Enterprise Newry Mourne & Down Programme (SENMD)

Funded by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, the Social Enterprise Newry Mourne Down Programme (SENMD) was co-ordinated and delivered by the Agency's Principal Social Enterprise Advisor, Stephen McClelland, in partnership with Down Business Centre.

Social Enterprises make an important and unique contribution to the local economy of the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area. They create jobs for people who would otherwise be left out; provide vital services for people who might not get them otherwise, they reinvest their surpluses back into community projects and in many cases protect the environment. There are over 200 organisations in the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area involved at some level in social enterprise activity.

During 2022/2023 the SENMD programme helped social entrepreneurs and community groups across the Newry Mourne and Down District to develop sustainable social enterprises with the motivation, the skills and the resources to ameliorate social problems and improve the lives of citizens in the area. NMEA's bespoke support draws on this organisation's understanding as a social enterprise itself of what it takes to be a successful change-maker. During the year 40 organisations have received 1-2-1 Mentoring Support in Idea Development and 80 individuals from 40 organisations received 1-2-Many Mentoring Support at workshops in Newry, South Armagh and South Down. With assistance from the Programme 10 new social enterprises started up creating 14 jobs and 40 volunteering opportunities. SENAM levered in almost £1 million of additional funding into participant enterprises.

We estimate that 2,000 people in the District benefitted from the services delivered by these social enterprises during 2022/2023 in Newry, Bessbrook, Mullaghbawn, Forkhill, Silverbridge, Warrenpoint, Castletwellan, Newcastle, Downpatrick, Crossgar, Dundrum, Strangford and Kilclief. The social enterprises supported have helped address, social issues such as Dementia, Autism, Domestic Violence, Mental Health, Homelessness, New Migrants, Climate Change, Heritage, Tourism, Outdoor Activities, Creative Arts, Media Production, Irish Language and Recycling.

During the year several local social enterprises won awards for their work at local, regional and UK-wide levels. These awards generated positive media coverage on radio, television and in local and national newspapers and magazines.



NMEA's Social Enterprise team, Stephen Mclelland and Carol Magee with Ardal O'Hanlon and Kathleen Agnew and Margret Finnegan from An Tobar in County Armagh.



Social Enterprise funding workshop at WIN Conference Centre.



Social Enterprises are the glue binding communities together - here in Kilkeel.

We played a key role in the Newry Mourne and Down Council Community Planning Strategic Stakeholders Forum helping to distribute almost £1 million of Cost-of-Living relief across the council district. The Enterprise Agency carried out the research, planning and feasibility studies that enabled the setting up of the Social Supermarket in Newry, Mourne and Down leveraging over £100,000 of investment from the Department for Communities.

Working as a member Development Trusts NI Board we were also able to help local community-owned organisations to secure premises of their own through Community Asset Transfer and supporting applications to the Community Ownership Fund as part of the UK government's levelling up funding.

2.6 Newry Mourne & Down Enterprise Week 14 - 18 November 2022

NMEA in partnership with Down Business Centre co-ordinated the Newry Mourne and Down District Council-sponsored 2022 Enterprise Week Programme of events which together attracted 968 participants and had a social media reach of 227,241. 600 pupils at schools from across the district were among the participants. We were able to engage with many more people using virtual tools than would have been possible at traditional in-person events.

Section 3

CROSS BORDER AND TRADE DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES AND TRANSNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

2022-23 NMEA ACTIVITY REPORT

3. CROSS BORDER AND TRADE DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES AND TRANSNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

3.1 The Cross Border Co-Innovate Programme

From 2017 to 2022, **Kieran Mathers** and **Maria Coyle** co-ordinated across the 12 county Interreg zone (i.e the 6 counties of Northern Ireland and the 6 border counties in the Irish Republic) the delivery of three of the five strands of the €16.5m **EU-funded NI/RoI/Scotland Co-Innovate Programme**. InterTrade Ireland had overall responsibility for the management of the Programme. Across 12 counties Co-Innovate helped 1,056 companies to become more innovative and thus more competitive. The NMEA team co-ordinated delivery of the Co-Innovate support package through the Enterprise Northern Ireland network of Local Enterprise Agencies (including NMEA) and the RoI border county Local Enterprise Offices.

The Co-innovate Programme ended in June 2022 as one of the most successful cross border EU business support programmes in 25 years. Our colleague, Kieran Mathers, decided at that point to retire as a full-time employee of the Enterprise Agency after 19 years of service.

3.2 The Cross Border Local Enterprise Partnership

NMEA continued during the year to act as the secretariat for the "Cross Border Local Enterprise Partnership" which brought together the N. Ireland Local Enterprise Agencies and the southern border county Local Enterprise Offices to work on various cross border initiatives.

3.3 Peace-Plus Programme funding bid in Partnership with Intertrade Ireland, Enterprise NI and the RoI Local Enterprise Offices

During the year NMEA worked with InterTradeIreland, Enterprise NI and the border county Local Enterprise Offices on a bid for EU PeacePlus funding for a new six year cross border business innovation programme. In July 2022 Kieran Mathers was appointed by the enterprise agency/office partners to coordinate that effort on a part-time basis, agreeing to come out of retirement to do so. The border county local enterprise offices and Enterprise NI jointly funded Kieran's post (hosted by NMEA).

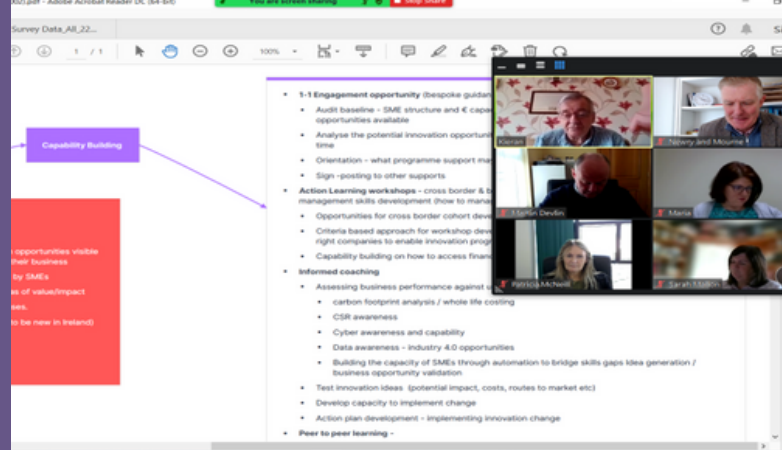
3.4 WIN CONSULTANTS (EU)

www.winconsultants.ie

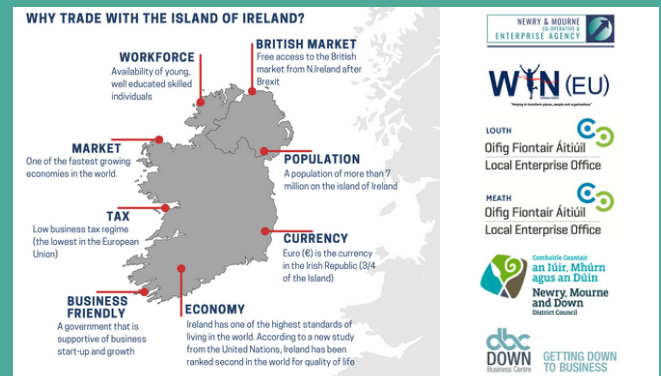
The Purpose of our WIN (EU) division is to enable the Co-op & Enterprise Agency's expert team to tender for EU Programme contracts, participate in EU knowledge exchange programmes and to work with partners in the Republic and across the EU after Brexit. The company is registered in the Irish Republic and headquartered at the Creative Spark Centre for Creativity and Innovation in Dundalk.

Through WIN (EU) our intentions are to:

- 1) Secure an income which the Co-operative can then invest in projects which support economic development and social harmony in Newry & Mourne, and
- 2) Be able to operate more effectively beyond Newry & Mourne, in the Republic of Ireland, the EU and other international settings.



Co-ordinating the Cross Border Local Enterprise Partnership of N. Ireland's Local Enterprise Agencies (Enterprise N. Ireland) and the six border county Local Enterprise Offices in the Republic.



The cross border InnovateAccelerateEurope Programme partners.

3.5 InnovateAccelerateEurope Programme

InnovateAccelerateEurope is a cross border programme (Newry Mourne & Down/Louth/Meath) designed by NMEA and WIN (EU) the purpose of which is to prepare local companies who haven't before traded outside the island of Ireland for the complexities and opportunities associated with trading into Europe. Ultimately our hope is that these companies will be able to internationalise successfully, create more jobs, generate higher profits and survive the challenges presented by Brexit.

In April 2022 funding was secured from Newry Mourne & Down Council, Louth County Council and Meath County Council allowing us to continue delivering InnovateAccelerate Europe Programme support to local companies in 2022 and 2023.

Between September and December 2022 with the help of a team of mentors 20 company owner/managers drew up a set of internationalisation objectives.

Four online training sessions also took place during Quarter 4 2022. Slackpress Productions Limited produced 20 promotional videos, one for each of our 20 client businesses. This was delivered as part of an intense work schedule during November and December 2022.

The international business to business collaboration element of the programme got underway in November and December 2022. A panel of EU-based agents helped client companies to target key EU markets (The Vision Works in Germany, MindShare in France, LimEU in Italy and INDA Iniciativas Spain). This culminated in a Virtual B2B Meet in April 2023 when our 20 client companies were brought together virtually to engage in direct one-to-one dialogues about business collaboration opportunities with companies based in Germany, France, Italy and Spain. Each of our 20 local businesses was allocated its own virtual meeting room where it was able to host meetings with the "visiting" companies. Each local business had at least two one-to-one meetings with potential business collaborators based in one of the four key continental European markets targeted by the Programme. The primary purpose of those meetings was to give participants the experience of pitching, listening and sharing ideas with an owner manager in the same sector operating in a different country.



Section 3

CROSS BORDER AND TRADE DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES AND TRANSNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

2022-23 WIN - Work In Newry

The 20 companies from the region who participated in the Programme during 2022/23 were:

Mourne Road Tours	Newry & Mourne
Camlough Lake Glamping	Newry & Mourne
Oceanauts Diving	Newry & Mourne
Bluebell Lane	Newry & Mourne
Dolly's Farm	Down
Northern Ireland Golf Tours	Down
Slane Farm Hostel	Meath
Meath Eco Park	Meath
An Gobha	Meath
Boyne Valley Wools	Meath
Loughcrew Megalithic Centre	Meath
Beewise	Meath
Boyne Boats	Meath
Aine Duane Weaver	Louth
Farm Tours Ireland	Louth
Anam Tours	Louth
Carlingford Lough Sea Tours	Louth
Listoke Distillery	Louth
On Yer Bike	Louth
Escape HQ	Louth

Colin Hanna co-ordinated the delivery of the Programme in Newry, Mourne & Down, Louth and Meath.

3.6 EU GIG Economy Programme

In July 2019 a transnational partnership led by Meath County Council, of which our EU programme division, WIN (EU), was a part, secured funding from the EU Commission for 3 years to investigate the implications of the "Gig" or freelance economy for local economic development agencies in the European Union. Because of the pandemic, the deadline for completion of the Programme was extended until September 2022.

Our task was to produce a training programme to raise awareness of the "Gig Economy" and its implications and to establish an alliance to promote initiatives which would help local authorities, employers, workforce representatives, central government and others to adapt their programmes and policies to mitigate the potentially negative effects of the Gig economy and to maximise its positive aspects. The Gig economy is a spectrum. On one end workers are poorly paid, have few rights and have no financial and therefore life security. Their lives are described as precarious. At the other end of the spectrum are freelancers who are self-employed by choice and command higher annual incomes than they would if they were full-time employees.

For some businesses the importation of freelance expertise allows them to experiment and ultimately to innovate. There is evidence that this process is an engine for the creation of entirely new full-time jobs. As the delivery agent for the primary front-line central and local government-funded self-employment promotion initiative in the Newry & Mourne area, the Business Start



- MOURNE ROAD TOURS
- CAMLOUGH LAKE GLAMPING
- OCEANAUTS DIVING
- BLUEBELL LANE
- SLANEFARM HOSTEL
- MEATH ECO PARK
- AN GOBHA
- BOYNE VALLEY WOOLS
- LOUGHCREW MEGALITHIC CENTRE
- BEEWISE
- BOYNE BOATS
- ANIE DUNNE WEAVER
- FARM TOURS IRELAND
- ANAM TOURS
- CARLINGFORD LOUGH SEA TOURS
- LISTOKE DISTILLERY
- DOLLY'S FARM
- NORTHERN IRELAND GOLF TOURS



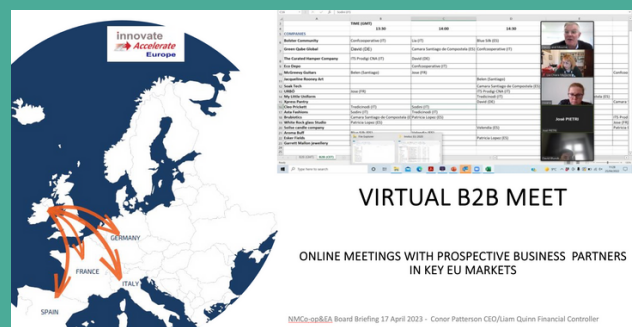
Promoting local home market producers in markets across the EU.



Meath County Head of Enterprise, Joe English and Conor Patterson talking at the world University Industry Innovation Network conference in Amsterdam about the challenges and opportunities associated with the gig (or freelance) economy.



Hosting an EU expert knowledge exchange session at the Ballymsconlon Hotel. Shared knowledge drives human progress. In this period of global uncertainty it is needed more than ever.



The InnovateAccelerateEurope "Virtual B2B Meet" - Introducing local companies to prospective business collaborations in key EU markets.

Programme, these insights helped us to ensure that our support continues to meet the needs of entrepreneurs. Our project partners Meath County Council, a local authority from northern Spain, an agricultural co-operative from northern Spain, an FE College from the Netherlands, an enterprise agency from the Netherlands, a local authority from the Tuscany region in Italy and a workers co-operative and training organisation also from Tuscany.

In June 2022 Conor Patterson and Rory Carroll representing WIN (EU) and Joe English the Meath County Local Enterprise Office led an international promotion of the project at the world University Industry Innovation Network conference in Amsterdam. Subsequently Colin Hanna and Rory Carroll represented WIN (EU) at the final meeting of the project partners in the Galicia region in Spain in September 2022. The WIN team co-ordinated the session which was focused on the EU-wide dissemination of the learning resources produced by the partners. The project ended successfully in December 2022.

Section 3

CROSS BORDER AND TRADE DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES AND TRANSNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

2022-23 NMEA ACTIVITY REPORT

3.7 EU Giggin' Policy Programme

In 2022/2023 we continued our work with a group of development agencies and higher/further education institutions from the Netherlands, Spain and Italy and Louth and Meath counties in another EU-funded project focused on bringing young people into the policy debate on the challenges and opportunities associated with the Gig Economy – **GIGGIN' POLICY**.

Our focus was on gathering the latest knowledge about the gig economy from across the EU and sharing it widely, highlighting the implications of shifts in the labour market for young people preparing to enter the world of work. We believe that young people should be able to help shape the changes that will affect their future prospects by sharing their experiences of the gig economy and involving them in the design of new policy instruments. We tested this departure from the status quo in a series of Policy Innovation Co-Design Labs, one of which was in Newry and formed a "Territorial Policy Pact" to engage with key influencers in the policy-making arena.

During the year our WIN (EU) team also created and managed the website for the project as well as publishing a series of e-zines to share information on the work of the project partners. In May 2022 WIN (EU) and Meath County Council hosted a series of project partner meetings in North Louth. Conor Patterson then represented WIN (EU) at the BizBarcelona Giggin' Policy Multiplier Event in November 2022.

Our project partners were: Friesland College; Learning Hub Friesland; Friese Poort; The Municipality Of Leeuwarden; Meath County Council; Dundalk Institute Of Technology; Barcelona Chamber Of Commerce; EDUCEM (Catalonia); and KSPMC (Lithuania).

3.8 EU Circular.rur Programme

In April 2022 WIN (EU) and another partnership of universities, local authorities and development agencies from Germany, Spain, Italy, Greece and Croatia was awarded funding by the EU Commission to produce a training course and other tools to promote recycling, waste reduction and more sustainable use of energy and other scarce resources as a means by which rural economies across the EU could generate new opportunities for business and wealth creation. Conor Patterson represented WIN (EU) at the first project partner meeting in Galicia, Spain, in April 2022 and at another project partner meeting in Italy in November 2022.

3.9 EU Change4Good Programme

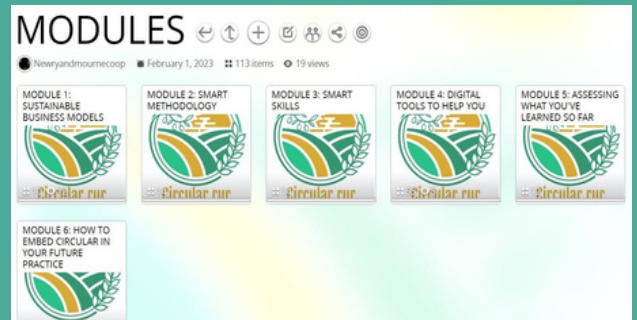
In June 2022 WIN (EU) in partnership with development agencies from Spain and Italy secured funding from the EU Erasmus Programme for a project to promote the adoption of Corporate Social Responsibility by SME's in the European Union. In November 2022 the first project meeting took place in the Tuscany region, Italy.

3.10 EU SeaLabHaus Programme

WIN (EU) was one of 12 partners from four EU nations which submitted a successful proposal for €3.2m from the EU Interreg Programme to finance a 3 year project on marine and coastal tourism. The project will begin in February 2024. The other two island-of-Ireland partners are University College Dublin and the Technical University of the South East based in Waterford. The other countries participating are Spain, France and Portugal.



Sharing what we do (sometimes quite well) and building international partnerships is an effective way to promote our region.



Online training resources on the Circular Economy produced by the NMEA team.



A Gigging' Policy "Co-Design Lab" at the WIN Thinklab.



The first Change4Good project meeting which took place in the Tuscany region, Italy.

Section 4

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

2022-23 WIN - Work In Newry

4. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

4.1 Big Lottery-funded WORK4UPLUS2 Programme

In 2022/2023 NMEA continued to deliver its transformative individualised support package for young people aged between 14 and 18 in the Newry Mourne & Down, and Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon Council areas who had endured adversities from early childhood. In 2018 the Enterprise Agency secured £500k from the UK Big Lottery “Reaching Out and Empowering Young People” Fund to continue this Work4Uplus2 programme until mid-2023 (currently extended until October 2023). This was the second allocation of funding by the Big Lottery to the Enterprise Agency for this important work bringing its total financial commitment to the Agency over 10 years to £1m, a measure of the value it places on the work of the team at WIN.

An independent survey of the vulnerable young people who participated in the Work4UPlus2 programme, found that almost 90% of them were known to the PSNI and all had endured “Adverse Childhood Experiences” (ACE’s) which had impacted on them in a variety of different ways. The behavioural manifestations of these adverse childhood experiences included poor social skills, low confidence and self-esteem, anxiety, self-harm, risk-taking behaviour, anti-social activity, smoking or vaping, experimenting with drugs & alcohol and poor anger management.

In October 2023 the programme was awarded a third allocation of funding by the National Lottery, the only project in Northern Ireland to be financed for a third time.

The core aims of the Programme which will now run again until 2027 are to help improve young people’s confidence and self-esteem, to develop their life skills and to help them to be “work ready”. The Enterprise Agency is assisted in this effort by two “primary delivery partners”, the Education Authority and Future Proof (previously REACT). The Work4UPlus2 Programme continues to be managed by Pauline Coghlan with administration support from Ciara McKenna.

A cohort of 25 young people completed the programme in June 2022. They celebrated their successes at a graduation event at Formula Karting in Newry, where they were presented with portfolios detailing their achievements, among them certificates in ICT Level 1, Emergency First Aid, Food Hygiene at Catering Level 2, Upholstery, Silver Service and Retail. There were also presentations of special awards, for full attendance, most improved and volunteering.

In September 2022 a new group of 26 vulnerable young people were recruited to participate in the programme, bringing the total of young people supported since 2018 to 167.

All the participants completed courses on the following subjects, during their time on the programme:

- Team Building
- Logical Thought
- Emergency First Aid
- Healthy Relationships & Consent
- Drugs & Alcohol Awareness
- Retail & EPOS training
- ICT Level 1
- Food Hygiene Level 1 or 2
- Mindfulness
- CV’s & Personal Statements
- Volunteering
- Communication Skills
- Cookery & Nutrition
- Health & Safety in the workplace
- Sexual Health
- Upholstery
- The Hour of Code
- Silver Service & Table Management
- Barista Training
- Finances (Banking & Store Cards)
- Peer Mentoring Sessions
- Multiple one-to-one Mentoring Meetings

Altogether these 167 young people participated in 889 one-to-one support meetings to develop mind maps, set goals, draw up CV’s and personal statements and secure work placements, attended 932 x 2 hour group training sessions and participated on 118 remote sessions covering a wide range of topics.

Practical hands on training was provided both in the young people’s “Haven” at WIN and in a bespoke Retail Training Unit also at WIN. During 2022/23, 76 vulnerable young people completed training on communication and customer service skills and on how to use an EPOS system (cash register with a card payment terminal). In addition, 86 trainees completed a furniture upholstery course and 67 completed a silver service and a barista training programme which incorporated the hosting of an inter-generational four course meal for a group of older people from within the local community.



Work4UPlus upholstery training in the young peoples “haven” at WIN.



Work4UPlus participants brainstorming together.



Work4UPlus participants with their graduation portfolios.

The Work4UPlus2 Programme’s impact is measured as a mix of so called hard and soft “outcomes”. For those who completed the programme to date, the hard outcomes included:

- 131 obtained an Emergency First Aid Certificates
- 34 achieved a Level 2 in Food Hygiene
- 65 achieved a Level 1 in ICT
- 118 obtained certificates for the ‘Hour Of Code’, an introduction to computer science
- 25 achieved Blue or Bronze Award certificates in Velotech Cycle Maintenance
- 67 achieved certificates for a B-Positive Mental Health awareness course
- 76 achieved a Retail Training Certificate
- 67 obtained a Silver Service Training Certificate

“Softer” (but very important) outcomes are considered harder to measure, but using the Rikter Scale technique to uncover how young people on the programme felt and how their attitudes had changed as a result of their participation in the programme we found that a high proportion of students reported that their overall confidence had increased, that they were less easily influenced by others, their drug and alcohol consumption had reduced and they were less stressed. They said that they were better able to deal with differences and see others’ points of view and that this had resulted in improved relationships, health and well-being and a more positive outlook regarding employment training or education options.

Section 4

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

2022-23 NMEA ACTIVITY REPORT

4.2 Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership

Throughout the year the Co-operative and Enterprise Agency was represented on the Department For Communities Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership and hosted the Partnership's meetings in the Thinklab at WIN. The members of the Partnership during the year were: The Department For Communities, Newry Mourne and Down Council, Newry & Mourne Enterprise Agency, the Confederation of Community Groups, and Southern Regional College. The Southern Health & Social Services Trust, The Northern Ireland Housing Executive, Drumalane & Quayside Close Community Association, Ballybot Community Association, and Barcroft Community Association. Martin's Lane Community Association, Carnagat Community Association, Derrybeg Community Association, Meadow and Armagh Road Association, the Greater Linenhall Community Association, the Three Ways Community Association (High Street). The Partnership has invested £16m in the Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Area since it was established in 2005. During that time it has funded three significant modernisation projects at WIN Business Park, including the fitting out of the WIN Conference Centre and the development of the ThinkLab Innovation Centre.

4.3 Newry Neighbourhood Renewal – EDUCATION TO EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMME (E2E)

With renewed financial support from the Department For Communities' Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Programme in 2022/2023 the Agency delivered the Education to Employment programme face-to-face for the first time since the introduction of Covid-19 social distancing restrictions in 2020. The aims of the Programme were to introduce young people from the Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Area (NRA, i.e. half of the urban area of Newry which is designated as falling within the most economically disadvantaged 10% of small areas in Northern Ireland) to the workings of the modern economy and the world of work and to provide them with guidance on the career and personal development pathways available to them. The Programme had four distinctive elements: class study visits, work placements, mentoring provided by local 'business champions', and career guidance events. It targeted secondary school pupils aged 11-18 years living in the Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Area and Primary 7 pupils attending the 5 primary schools which service the Neighbourhood Renewal Area.

4.4 The Newry Mourne and Down Labour Market Partnership

During 2022/2023, Newry & Mourne Co-operative and Enterprise Agency continued to participate as a "key stakeholder" in community planning meetings convened by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council to promote the well-being of the District and to make more efficient use of scarce resources.

The Enterprise Agency was represented by Stephen McClelland on the Economic Development, Regeneration and Tourism thematic group and the Community and Voluntary Sector Stakeholder Group and by Colin Hanna on the Newry DEA. In 2022 their focus was on how organisations could better collaborate to help those most affected by the cost-of-living crisis.



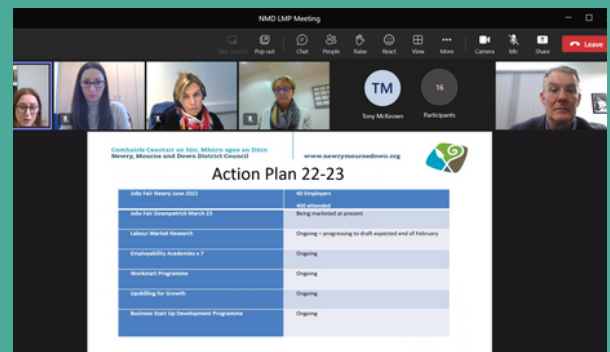
Newry's P7 pupils on a visit to WIN Business Park.



The E2E "Career Pathway" guidance session at the Newry Omniplex.



An E2E "Coder Dojo" summer camp at Whitegates Community Centre, Newry.



The Newry Mourne and Down Labour Market Partnership funded by the Department for Communication and administered by NM&DDC is chaired by Conor Patterson.

Section 4

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

2022-23 WIN - Work In Newry

4.5 Community Planning

During 2022/2023, Newry & Mourne Co-operative and Enterprise Agency continued to participate as a "key stakeholder" in community planning meetings convened by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council to promote the well-being of the District and to make more efficient use of scarce resources.

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4.6 Compass Points inter-cultural dialogue group

Conor Patterson was an active participant during the year in the Compass Points initiative. It brought together key influencers and representatives from across the island of Ireland (including for both governments) with the aim of building relationships and providing a space for comprehensive engagement on issues outstanding from the conflict and currently causing concern and division. During the year the group met five times. The format of the meetings generally involved a presentation on an agreed topic, followed by a facilitated plenary discussion and time for the participant to mix and have their own conversations. In addition, specialist sub-groups met separately during the year and reported back to the main group.

4.7 Other Community Support Initiatives

- The Co-operative sponsored a prize at St Joseph's High School's annual achievement recognition event.
- The Co-operative sponsored an annual prize for business planning on the Business Studies course at Southern Regional College.
- The Newry City Runners Charity Race was hosted at WIN.
- The Co-operative provided support to the team of volunteers raising funds to restore St. Catherine's Dominican Church in Newry.
- Throughout 2022/2023 the Co-operative worked closely with its host community in Mourneview, Murphy Crescent and Canal Street in Newry.

4.8 Financial support to good causes

During the year the Co-operative made contributions to the following:

- St Johns Ambulance
- PIPS
- Head Injury Support
- St Joseph's Boys High School
- Barcroft Community Association
- Cruppen2Crocker Charity Cycle



The Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership which meets 8 times a year at the WIN Thinklab.



The Daisy Hill Future Group.



NMEA Chairman, Peter McEvoy, welcomes a Fine Gael delegation to WIN Business park in Newry.



NMEA Board member, John MacMahon, explains to a group of senior Fianna Fáil politicians visiting WIN Business Park how important a thriving island economy is to Newry, South Armagh and South Down.

Section 5

INFLUENCING POLICY AND PROMOTING THE REGION

2022-23 NMEA ACTIVITY REPORT

5. INFLUENCING POLICY AND PROMOTING THE REGION

During the year Newry & Mourne Co-operative and Enterprise Agency lobbied those with the power to address economic and social development issues affecting Newry & Mourne and the wider east border region.

5.1 Directorships

Chairman, **Peter McEvoy** represented the Enterprise Agency on the Enterprise Northern Ireland Council.

Dr Conor Patterson, Chief Executive, sat on the Board of Enterprise Northern Ireland and served as a co-operative representative on the Enterprise Northern Ireland Council. He continued during the year to serve as a member of the Maze Long Kesh Development Corporation and as a board member of Intertrade Ireland. He also during the year served as the secretary of Oriel Developments Ltd, the secretary of Binnian Developments Ltd, a member of the Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership, a trustee of the Murphy Trust, a director of Newry Chamber of Commerce and Trade, a board member of the Creative Spark Incubation Centre and its "Fab Lab" division in Dundalk, a member of the Greater Newry Vision Partnership and a co-opted advisor to the board of the Confederation of Community Groups in Newry. **John MacMahon** served as a Director of Oriel Developments Ltd and a Director of Binnian Developments Ltd. **Gordon Coulter (M.B.E.)**, as well as being a Director of Kilkeel Development Association, served as a Director of Binnian Developments Ltd. **Claire McCullough** served as a Director of Binnian Developments Ltd. **Kevin Starrs** served as a Director of Oriel Developments Ltd. **Ronan Dennedy**, Manager of the Louth County Enterprise Fund, served as a Board member of Oriel Developments Ltd. **Jennifer Malone** sat on the Prince's Youth Business Trust Southern Region Steering Committee.

5.2 Political Engagement

During 2022/2023 Conor Patterson and Liam Quinn held meetings with political stakeholders in N.Ireland and the Irish Republic, as well as giving press interviews to highlight the challenges faced by the Newry border region as well as its under-appreciated potential.

The highlights were:

- Meeting US President, Joe Biden, Dundalk, April 2023.
- Meeting ROI Enterprise Minister, Simon Coveney, March 2023.
- Speaking at the 2023 Cross Border Business Conference, March 2023.
- Co-ordinating a visit in February 2023 by a delegation of senior Fine Gael politicians to Newry. This included a meeting with administrators and clinicians at Daisy Hill Hospital.
- A presentation to the Board of the International Fund for Ireland on the Flurrybridge project in February 2023.
- Meeting with US Consul, Paul Narain, Newry, February 2023.
- Visit by a delegation of Danish parliamentarians to Flurrybridge in March 2023.
- Chairing on Armagh/Down/Louth People's Assembly in March 2023.
- Meeting with Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce March 2023.
- Meeting with Ruairí de Búrca, DG Ireland, UK and Americas Division, DFA, December 2022.
- Meeting at Stormont with the AU Party group on SME's in September 2022.
- Meeting senior DUP politicians, Jeffrey Donaldson, Emma Little-Pengelly and Paul Givan, Lisburn, October 2022.
- Giving written and oral evidence to the House of Lords European Affairs Committee on the "Ireland/N.Ireland Protocol", Newry, October 2022.
- Meeting with officials attached to the North/South Ministerial Council, August 2022.
- Meeting with the President of DKIT, August 2022.
- Co-ordinating a visit in September 2022 by a delegation of senior Fianna Fáil politicians led by Jim O'Callaghan TD to WIN Business Park.
- Meeting with members of the NI Assembly Economy Committee.
- Meeting with officials of the UK Business, Entrepreneurial and Innovation Department, April 2022.
- Meeting with the Czech Ambassador to the UK at WIN, May 2022.
- Meeting with the Shared Island Unit, May 2022.
- Meeting the UK Government Levelling Up Programme team, May 2022.
- Giving evidence to Sir Michael Lyons and is team as part of the Independent Review of Invest NI, June 2022.



The Board of Enterprise NI, the federation of Local Enterprise Agencies, following a meeting with politicians from all parties at Stormont.



Public meeting on the future of Daisy Hill Hospital, Newry, March 2023.



Liam Quinn hosts a group of senior Danish parliamentarians at Flurrybridge.



Conor Patterson welcomes the Czech Ambassador to WIN Business Park. Also pictured are Newry Chamber of Commerce President, Julie Gibbons, and Chamber Directors, Deborah Loughran and Jerome Mullen.

Interviews with:

- Bloomberg News International
- Andy Pollak
- The Sunday Times
- The Sunday Independent
- Wirtschaftswoche, Germany
- Les echos, France
- BBC World Service
- BBC Radio 4

Section 5

INFLUENCING POLICY AND PROMOTING THE REGION



2022-23 WIN - Work In Newry

The new MRI scanner at Daisy Hill Hospital

5.3 The Daisy Hill Future Group

The Daisy Hill Hospital Future Group was formed in February 2022 in response to widespread public concern about the future of Daisy Hill Hospital following the announcement by the Southern Health and Social Care Trust that it was suspending emergency surgery at the hospital. The group met throughout 2022 and 2023 in the Thinklab at WIN under the chairmanship of Conor Patterson. It lobbied politicians, civil servants and clinicians north and south of the border promoting an ambitious development prospectus for Daisy Hill.

In March 2023 the Future Group formally launched the Daisy Hill "Development Prospectus" at a public meeting in the Canal Court Hotel. As a result of the group's efforts, funding was secured to overhaul the hospital's power supply, an MRI scanner suite was opened on the site, Daisy Hill was confirmed as one of three overnight elective surgery hubs in N.Ireland, the former District Council headquarters site at Monaghan Row adjacent to Daisy Hill was transferred to the Southern Health and Social Care Trust and brought into the estate of the hospital. The Future Group also secured a commitment from the Department of Health that Daisy Hill's 24/7 Emergency Department would be protected long-term and frontline emergency thrombolysis stroke treatment would be retained along with the stroke rehab unit at the hospital.

A Future Group/Southern Trust "Expert Panel" is continuing to work to strengthen the hospital's other acute care departments, increase clinical staffing, maximise bed space, improve the treatment experience in the ED and increase ambulance cover in the greater Newry region.

NMEA has committed to prioritise this work for however long it takes. The population of Newry, South Armagh and South Down deserves first-class healthcare. Daisy Hill is one of the best-located acute hospitals on the island of Ireland. Huge numbers of people rely on its services. We are determined that it will be a flagship acute general hospital delivering life-saving and enhancing treatments to people from north and south of the border. Moreover, having an acute general hospital in a city is a key factor, alongside the quality of schools and lifestyles, in determining whether or not an area can attract skilled people and investment. So much of our future is therefore tied up in the future of our hospital.

5.4 Partnership with Down Business Centre

NMEA delivers all its Newry Mourne and Down district-wide initiatives in partnership with Down Business Centre under the terms of a Memorandum of Understanding signed between the organisations in 2010.

5.5 Newry Chamber of Commerce & Trade

The Agency played a significant role in supporting the work of Newry Chamber of Commerce during 2022/2023. Conor Patterson is a director of Newry Chamber of Commerce & Trade.

5.6 The Greater Newry Vision

During 2022/2023 the Enterprise Agency continued to promote the development of Newry City and its hinterland under the auspices of the **Greater Newry Vision Partnership**, alongside representatives of the Newry Chamber of Commerce and Trade, Newry Mourne and Down District Council, Southern Regional College, the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, Warrenpoint Harbour Authority, the Southern Health and Social Care Trust, the Department For Communities, the Department of Agriculture Environment and Rural Affairs and Invest Northern Ireland. The Partnership met fortnightly during the height of the Covid-19 crisis to share information and to co-ordinate support for citizens. Transformative projects championed by the partnership which are expected to progress in 2024 are: a Newry City Park at the Albert Basin, a civic administration Centre and a theatre and arts centre both in Newry city centre.

5.7 The Newry Mourne Down Louth MOU Advisory Forum

In 2022/2023 Conor Patterson represented the Enterprise Agency on the stakeholder Advisory Forum set up by Newry Mourne and Down Council and Louth County Council to help them maximise the impact of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which commits the Councils to work collaboratively in the fields of business support, tourism, the environment and emergency planning.

6. ENTERPRISE NORTHERN IRELAND (ENI)

The Agency was one of the founders of Enterprise Northern Ireland which represents the interests of Northern Ireland's 29 Local Enterprise Agencies, contributes to policy making and develops and implements Northern Ireland-wide business development programmes. During the year Conor Patterson represented the Newry Mourne and Down District on the Board of Enterprise Northern Ireland.

As well as representing Enterprise Agencies and the interests of their client base in discussions with government and others, Enterprise Northern Ireland co-ordinates the delivery of a portfolio of programmes through all of its Local Enterprise Agency members across Northern Ireland. Collectively Enterprise Northern Ireland members have 220 staff, are assisted by 335 voluntary directors, have nearly 3m square feet of workspace under their management, and have 5,000 active client companies. The network operates from 40 business parks and enterprise centres across Northern Ireland.

7. CONFERENCING AND OFFICE SERVICES

Our Conferencing and Office Services, which include conference room hire and servicing, a postal service, word processing, photocopying and colour printing are available to businesses, community organisations, statutory bodies, voluntary organisations and individuals.

8. QUALITY ACCREDITATION

The Enterprise Agency has been registered as an ISO 9001 (BS5750) quality assured body since June 1989. During the year the Agency had its internationally recognised accreditation renewed by the UK National Quality Assurance (NQA) organisation following an in-depth audit of its systems.

9. IN MEMORY

9.1 Brendan McAllister

Rev Deacon Brendan McAllister was a long-term friend of NMEA and a towering champion of peace building and reconciliation, respected across Ireland and also internationally for his work here and with the UN and European Union in North Africa, the Middle East, the Balkans and Afghanistan. He helped to build cross-community relations working closely with NMEA and other stakeholders from the mid-1990's to bring positive change to the lives of countless citizens of this island north and south. He offered his intelligence, gentleness and patient transformational insights to NMEA right up to the end of his life. While this humble man is missed more than he will ever know, his positive influence will live on long into the future.



9.2 John McClelland

Rev Deacon John McClelland was a volunteer mentor with the Enterprise Agency. John provided support to many communities, voluntary and social enterprise organisations on behalf of NMEA, helping with strategy and business planning and organisational leadership and management. John spent 35 years in the Northern Ireland Fire Brigade starting as a volunteer firefighter in his home town of Newry and rising through the ranks to become Chief Fire Officer for N. Ireland and Head of Strategic Management of the National Fire Service College in Britain. John's life was one of selfless service. Looking back on his life in 2022, John reflected that his voluntary community service was his most fulfilling time. John was a role model who we were proud to have working with us.



Section 6-10

BOARD OF DIRECTORS & ENTERPRISE AGENCY STAFF 2020-21



2022-23 WIN - Work In Newry

10. NEWRY & MOURNE CO-OPERATIVE - BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2022-23



Chairman
Peter McEvoy



Vice-Chairman
Kevin Starrs



Secretary
Michael Hughes



Director
John MacMahon



Director
**Gordon Coulter
M.B.E.**



Director
Frank O'Connor



Director
Claire McCullough



Director
Kevin Magill



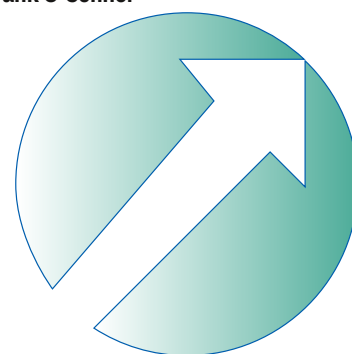
Director
Ronan Dennedy



Director
Davy Hyland



Director
Brendan Jackson



11. NEWRY & MOURNE ENTERPRISE AGENCY - STAFF 2022-23



Dr Conor Patterson
Chief Executive



Liam Quinn
Financial
Controller



Jennifer Malone
Business
Development
Executive
(Property)



Colin Hanna
Information,
Research &
Computer
Technology
Co-ordinator



Stephen McClelland
Social Economy
Advisor



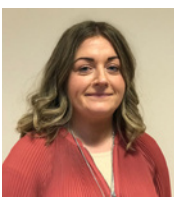
Pauline Coghlan
Work4UPlus
Programme
Manager



Maeve McParland
Education to
Employment
Programme
Manager



Michelle Frost
Receptionist



Ciara McKenna
Work4U
Programme
Administrator



Maria Coyle
Finance Officer



Carol Magee
Administrator

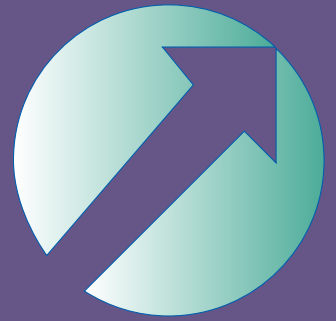


Rory Carroll
Digital Content
Producer



Kieran Mathers
Associate

2022-23 ACTIVITY REPORT



WIN - Work in Newry & Mourne

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Newry

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