

PLEAN GNÍOMHAÍOCHTA GAEILGE – Aibreán 2024-Márta 2025  
IRISH LANGUAGE ACTION PLAN - April 2024-March 2025



Comhairle Ceantair  
**Lár Uladh**  
**Mid Ulster**  
District Council

# GOAL 1

## To Promote Opportunities to Learn Irish

ACTION STEP DESCRIPTIONS	DATE TO BEGIN	DATE DUE	RESOURCES REQUIRED (staff, tech, etc.)	DESIRED OUTCOME	NOTES
Deliver language taster days and or cultural workshops at various locations within the community	April 2024	March 2025	£24,000	3 taster days and or Cultural Workshops to be delivered across MUDC	
Deliver Irish language classes at key locations across the District at <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Beginner Level</li> <li>Intermediate Level and</li> <li>Advanced Level</li> </ul> This will include youth and adult audiences and will involve clustering & collaboration with other groups eg schools, sporting, cultural groups and community organisations	April 2024	March 2025		Residents of MUDC will have access to Irish Language class within 10 mile radius	MUDC classes will be marketed collectively Online options will be developed
Assist with provision of facilities /promotion for delivery of University of Ulster Diploma in Irish	Sep 2024	June 2025		15 + students will commence the Irish Language Diploma with Ulster University 2020/21	Advice and promotion provided to (potential) applicants
Deliver a schools Irish Language and Heritage programme across the district in the classroom setting Examples include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Irish language lessons</li> <li>Gaelic Heritage projects (Gaelic origins of townlands/surnames)</li> <li>Workshops/site visits</li> <li>Seek partnership with 'Scoil Spreagtha' programme – Gael Linn.</li> <li>Explore long term benefits of teacher training options.</li> </ul>	April 2024	March 2025	£10,000	Engage 15+ schools in the language and heritage programme	Aimed at Key Stage 1 classes. Persistent difficulties obtaining tutors for this programme.  To adopt the existing 'Dúchas' project as part of the wider 'Scoil Spreagtha' initiative currently operating with 40+ schools throughout Mid Ulster. Such an approach could entail several staff training

					workshops which will be facilitated by Gael Linn to upskill teaching staff in participating primary schools. This would have the effect of maximising the budget in partnership with Gael Linn to target an increased number of schools than previously reached. This would be more sustainable long term and leave a legacy in schools.
Mid Ulster District Council Regional & Minority Languages Bursary	April 2024	March 2025	£30,000	100 + applicants across the district to attend recognised language summer colleges for an average of 3 weeks	Opened to residents (adults and young people) of MUDC only

## GOAL 2

**To Develop Irish Language in the community and to make it more accessible for all**

ACTION STEP DESCRIPTIONS	DATE TO BEGIN	DATE DUE	RESOURCES REQUIRED (staff, tech, etc.)	DESIRED OUTCOME	NOTES
Provide development support, advice, information and guidance to individuals, groups and schools within the region in the promotion and development of the Irish Language and in particular An Ghaeloideachas (Irish Medium Education). Aim will be the further development and strengthening of the wider school 'community', with the purpose of creating bilingual communities.	April 2024	March 2025	£4,500	Community programme at HOTON to enhance linguistic support for bilingual families in the South Tyrone area	In conjunction with HOTON education office Further projects and activities for Gaelscoileanna to help promote Irish language use outside of the classroom, will also link in with further promotion of HOTON as a 'Cultúrlann'

Liaise with Irish language community locally through the Mid Ulster Irish Language Forum to assess needs and inform development of annual action plan and IL strategy	April 2024	March 2025		2+ themed meetings of Mid Ulster Irish Language Forum per annum	Meetings will focus on areas of interest to the community eg. Co-operation with GAA/Council, education, external funding opportunities etc
Provide development support through activity grant funding to external cultural organisations to establish Irish language programmes and to promote the language among its audience base.	April 2024	March 2025	£50,000	Irish Language Activity Fund	
Establish and maintain conversation circles and reading groups in local communities and possibly link to graduates and participants of Ulster University & Mid Ulster District Council Diploma participants - airgead breise d'imeachtaí HOTON	April 2024	March 2025		Adult fluency/language enrichment	
Co-operate with Irish Language community to develop a Mid Ulster Seachtain na Gaeilge programme which will feature a range of engaging activities aimed at Irish speakers and non-Irish speakers wanting to get involved in the language and profiling the Irish Language across the district	November 2024	March 2025	£7,500	Seachtain na Gaeilge delivered	Ensure geographical spread Align with MUDC Arts and Culture Festival
Enhance and promote youth services in Irish across MUDC and provide guidance and support to local youth projects – Ógchlub Dhún Geanainn agus Cairdeas Eoghain	April 2024	March 2025	£3,500	Materials, resource development	Engage with relevant organisations to increase the language capacity of local groups Consultations with sector highlight need for a programme aimed at teenagers. Focus on teenage services outside of term-time.
Facilitate the development of Foras na Gaeilge's Líonra programme in Mid Ulster An Coláiste Tuaithe stáidéar Gnó/Rural College Business Case	April 2024	March 2025	£2,468	Successful development of Líonra Charn Tóchair and subsequent extension of highest	

development level to other areas particularly Gael-Ionad Uí Néill in Coalisland.

Development support for identified lower level Lónra zones in Coalisland and Ballinascreen/Magherafelt to achieve highest status within 5 years (see IL Strategy 2023-27)

## GOAL 3

To develop the Promotion and Use of Irish within and by Mid Ulster District Council

ACTION STEP DESCRIPTIONS	DATE TO BEGIN	DATE DUE	RESOURCES REQUIRED (staff, tech, etc.)	DESIRED OUTCOME	NOTES
Develop Irish Language service in the area of Environmental health awareness/education, recycling etc.	Sept 2024	March 2025	Collaboration with Environmental Health and Technical Services	7 pre-schools will avail of the Nigh Do Lámha hand washing instruction workshops. One community group will host a recycling and anti-litter project.	Service to be proactively marketing to Irish Medium pre-schools
Develop Irish Language service in Heritage and Education within MUDC Arts and Cultural facilities	April 2024	March 2025	Collaboration with MUDC Cultural Venues  £11,000	Facilitation of Irish language activities and programmes at key Council facilities and heritage sites and venues across the district	Investigate provision of digital resources for visitors to access on-site and online
Work with QUB Community Archaeology Programme	April 2024	March 2025			
To raise awareness of Gaelic linguistic heritage within the district	April 2024	March 2025	£2,000	Develop materials and plans for the benefit of the local Irish language community	Promote awareness of the linguistic heritage of Mid-Ulster (Láimhleabhar

					naíscoile agus Gaeilge sa Phobal)
Provide in-house translation services to Council Departments. Pat McKay	April 2024	March 2025	£500	Increase awareness within Council of this service	As per Irish Language policy
Provide language awareness training to Council Departments.	April 2024	June 2024		Increase awareness of Irish language community needs within Council Increase MUDC ability to deliver a bilingual service to the community	As per Irish Language policy
Provide advice and support as necessary to council departments re bilingual service delivery	April 2024	May 2024		Delivery of signage programme etc	
Provide Irish language audio tours for HOTION, Ohm Dark Skies Centre and Tulach Óg.	April 2024	June 2024	Collaboration with MUDC Cultural Venues	Enhanced facilitation of Irish language tourism	As per Irish Language policy

**Minutes of Mid Ulster Policing and Community Safety Partnership meeting held on 6 March 2024  
in Council Chamber, Dungannon and via MS Teams at 3.30pm**

- Present:** Councillor Sean McPeake (Chair), Councillor Eimear Carney, Councillor Clement Cuthbertson, Councillor Denise Johnston, Councillor Cathal Mallaghan, Councillor Brian McGuigan, Councillor John McNamee, Councillor Deirdre Varsani
- Grace Meerbeek, Julie McKeown
- Sharon Crooks (NIHE), Sinead Dolan (YJA), Michelle Grant (PBNI), Chris Morrison (NIFRS), Superintendent Michael O'Loan (PSNI), Leo Quinn (EA), T/Chief Inspector Beverlie Reid (PSNI)
- Apologies:** Councillor Anne Forde, Councillor Eva Cahoon, Alexandra Black (Vice Chair), Sue Chada
- In Attendance:** Michael McCrory (PCSP Manager), Annette McGahan (PCSP Officer), Shauna McCloskey (PCSP Officer), Martina McCullagh (PCSP Assistant)

The Meeting commenced at 3.33pm.

**PCSP303/24 WELCOME**

The Chair, Councillor McPeake welcomed all to the meeting. The Chair wished Alexandra Black (Vice Chair) a speedy recovery.

**PCSP304/24 DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Members were reminded of their obligation in relation to declarations of interest.

**PCSP305/24 MINUTES OF MID ULSTER POLICING & COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 24 JANUARY 2024**

The Minutes of Mid Ulster Policing and Community Safety Partnership meeting held on Wednesday 24 January 2024 were approved by Members.

**Proposed by:** Councillor Brian McGuigan

**Seconded by:** Councillor John McNamee

**PCSP306/24 MATTERS ARISING**

**PCSP290/23 MATTERS ARISING - PCSP285/23 - ANY OTHER BUSINESS**  
**Focus Meeting to discuss flags and offensive posters erected in Town Centres across Mid Ulster District**

In response to an update request from Councillor McNamee, the PCSP Manager advised a meeting to discuss flags and offensive posters erected in Town Centres across the district will take place on Wednesday 7 February 2024. Full details will be circulated to Members.

**PCSP291/23 – PROJECTS UPDATE – Tracker Units**

The PCSP Manager advised that copies of the Tracker Unit leaflet will be provided to Grace Meerbeek to assist with promotion of this initiative.

## PCSP299/24 REVIEW OF PCSP ACTION PLAN 2024/2025

The PCSP Manager referred to the overview of the PCSP Action Plan for 2024/25 which was provided at the last PCSP meeting held on the 13 December 2023, where it was agreed that Members would consider the document and provide feedback for the final review, prior to submission to the Joint Committee.

There are 3 strategic priorities as set out by the DoJ and the NIPB as follows;

**Strategic Priority 1** – *to ensure effective delivery in response to local need, and improve the visibility and recognition of the work of the PCSP through effective consultation, communication, and engagement.*

**Strategic Priority 2** – *to improve community safety by prioritising and addressing local safety issues, tackling crime and anti-social behaviour.*

**Strategic Priority 3** – *to support confidence in policing, including through collaborative problem solving with communities.*

**Strategic Priority 1** – *to ensure effective delivery in response to local need, and improve the visibility and recognition of the work of the PCSP through effective consultation, communication, and engagement*

### **Reference, Engagement and Listening (REAL)**

A new initiative to be included under this priority is a new format which Police wish to pursue called 'Reference, Engagement and Listening' (REAL) events. This involves consulting and engaging with local communities to develop problem solving initiatives which in turn will help build trust and confidence in Police. This will be trialled in one area and if successful can be rolled out across the district.

Members agreed with this addition to the Action Plan, no further amendments were requested to Strategic Priority 1.

**Strategic Priority 2** – *to improve community safety by prioritising and addressing local safety issues, tackling crime and anti-social behaviour*

### **Internet Safety**

As suggested by Alexandra Black, it is very important to raise awareness and highlight the dangers of on-line gaming and to inform the public of various 'parental controls' which can be activated to ensure a child is kept safe on-line. This awareness raising will be promoted through social media posts.

### **Agewell Handy Van - Domestic Violence high risk victims and Older Person's security equipment installations**

The PCSP Manager explained to Members the situation around funding, stating that PCSP contribute £15,000 to Agewell annually to contribute to the 'Handy Van' service which installs security equipment to the homes of domestic violence high-risk victims and to the homes of older people in the community. All referrals are received through the Crime Prevention Officer. The other funders which include the Northern and Southern Health Trusts, PHA, NIHE and MUDC have decided to prioritise the 'Good Morning Call' service only, and



to remove the 'Handy Van' service from the tender. This is a challenge for the PCSP as Agewell carry out an essential piece of work as laid out in the Action Plan. There is a deficit in funding of £40,000 for the Agewell tender.

The options are;

- Do we continue to contribute £15,000 to Agewell and fund this work from another pot of funding.
- Do we split the £15,000 to ensure we have some money where it is needed to fit domestic violence and older person's security equipment and provide some funding to the 'Good Morning Call'.

Members were asked for their views on the best way forward.

The Chair stated that it is disappointing to hear and short sighted of funding partners to remove the 'Handy Van' part of Agewell's work from the tender. It is an invaluable service and the absence of this will prove detrimental to services users.

In response to a question from Councillor McNamee, the PCSP Manager advised that there was a meeting attended by all the funders who took the decision to prioritise the 'Good Morning Call' aspect of Agewell's work and discontinue the 'Handy Van' as of 31 March 2024. The new tender will only contain the 'Good Morning Call' work. Funders have been informed of the major benefits to residents right across Mid Ulster district of this service provision.

Alexandra Black asked the question; can we allow this service to go by the wayside, as people's health and wellbeing will be seriously impacted.

Councillor McNamee stated that Agewell Funding will be discussed again at the next Development Committee meeting which will provide more clarity on all funders contributions towards this service.

The PCSP Manager advised that the information can be submitted as is and if amendments are needed later, they can be submitted separately to the Joint Committee with an accompanying explanation.

In response to a question from Grace Meerbeek regarding the quality of products being fitted, the PCSP Manager advised that all products are CE marked and approved by the PSNI Crime Prevention Officer.

T/Chief Inspector Reid advised that losing the 'Handy Van' service would present a major obstacle to arranging the fitting of security equipment. The Agewell staff are trusted and professional which is extremely important when attending victims of domestic violence and elderly people's homes to carry out work. It is not only the CPO who avails of this service, the Neighbourhood Teams also signpost people regularly to Agewell for assistance.

In response to a question from Councillor Varsani, the PCSP Manager advised that Mid and East Antrim have an Agewell service in their area, and he will contact them regarding their current funding situation.

The Chair asked if a breakdown of funding provision from all organisations

could be obtained to ascertain where the shortfall has arisen.

Members agreed with the above action in relation to Strategic Priority 2.

**Strategic Priority 3 – to support confidence in policing, including through collaborative problem solving with communities.**

The Chair referred to the continued damage to building confidence in Policing given their refusal, despite criticism from the judicial system to furnish information relating to legacy inquests. It is extremely difficult to get the GAA community in South Derry to fully engage with policing while this situation continues.

T/Chief Inspector Reid stated that she can fully understand the sentiment of the South Derry community and the level of mistrust towards Police and would relay the Chair's comments to her superior.

Members had no amendments to Strategic Priority 3.

**PCSP300/24 Justice and Security (NI) Act 2007**

T/Chief Inspector Reid referred to the Justice and Security (NI) Act 2007 and advised that all areas have been centrally asked to highlight and provide reassurance regarding the level of scrutiny that goes into legislation that Police use. This legislation gives Police powers to stop and search and stop and question (both with and without suspicion). This act was introduced in 2007 providing numerous additional powers, which assist Police to deal with terrorist related offences. There are small numbers in Mid Ulster that require the use of this legislation. Justice and Security powers need to be authorised every 14 days by an ACC and then confirmed by the Secretary of State. As part of the review process the Police as a service and at a District Level have a community Impact Assessment. Body worn video must be used and all searches are recorded.

In response to a question from the Chair, T/Chief Inspector Reid advised that statistics 'stop and search' are collated from April to April basis, therefore these can be provided in April 2024.

The Chair thanked T/Chief Inspector Reid for the update on the Justice and Security (NI) Act 2007.

**PCSP301/24 ANY OTHER BUSINESS  
Training for PCSP Members**

In response to a question from Grace Meerbeek in relation to training being provided to PCSP Members, the PCSP Manager advised that the target date for the re-constitution of PCSPs is the 1 April 2024, but may take to the 1 June 2024. The interview process for the recruitment of new PCSP Independent Members commences shortly following which the NIPB will arrange training for all Members.

**Youth Engagement Programme (YEP) in Holy Trinity, Cookstown**

Responding to a question from Grace Meerbeek in relation to the YEP in Holy Trinity College, Cookstown, Ryan McGee advised that this continues to be rolled

out using the Methodist Hall in Cookstown. The EA Youth Service premises will soon be complete and a comprehensive range of programmes will begin in February 2024. Emma Devlin, EA Youth Officer will contact the Member and provide an update on the YEP to date.

**PCSP302/24 Date of Next Meeting**

The next PCSP meeting will take place on Wednesday 6 March 2024 in Council Chamber, Dungannon and via MS Teams at 3.30pm.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending today's meeting.

The meeting ended at 4.33pm.