

**Minutes of Meeting of the Development Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Wednesday 3 December 2025 in the Council Offices, Burn Road, Cookstown and by Virtual means**

<b>Members Present</b>	Councillor McNamee, Chair  Councillors Bell, Black*, W Buchanan, F Burton, Clarke*, Corry*, Gildernew*, McLernon, McQuade*, Milne*, Molloy*, Monteith*, Quinn, Wilson
<b>Officers in Attendance</b>	Mr Black, Strategic Director of Communities & Place (SD: C&P) Mr Gordon, Assistant Director of Health, Leisure and Wellbeing (AD: HL&W) Ms Linney, Assistant Director of Development (AD: Dev)** Ms F McKeown, Assistant Director of Economic Development, Tourism & Strategic Programmes (AD: EDT&SP) Mr Hill, ICT Mrs Grogan, Committee and Member Services Officer
<b>Others in Attendance</b>	<b>Deputation:</b> <b>Road Victim Support Northern Ireland and Donegal</b> Debbie Mullan - Chairperson Eamonn Karran - Treasurer Marie O'Brien - Vice-Chairperson & Caoimhe's Mother Keria Mullan - Logan (Secretary)

\* Denotes Members present in remote attendance

\*\* Denotes Officers present by remote means

\*\*\* Denotes Others present by remote means

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

*The Chair, Councillor McNamee welcomed everyone to the meeting and those watching the meeting through the Live Broadcast. Councillor McNamee in introducing the meeting detailed the operational arrangements for transacting the business of the committee by referring to Annex A to this minute.*

**D197/25 Notice of Recording**

This meeting will be webcast for live and subsequent broadcast on the Council's You Tube site.

## **D198/25      Apologies**

Councillors Forde.

## **D199/25      Declaration of Interests**

The Chair, Councillor McNamee reminded Members of their responsibility with regard to declaration of interest.

*Councillor W Buchanan declared an interest in Agenda Item 15 – Peace Plus Tender Awards.*

*The Chair, Councillor McNamee declared an interest in Agenda Item 15 – Peace Plus Tender Awards.*

## **D200/25      Chair's Business**

None.

## **D201/25      Deputation: Road Victim Support Northern Ireland - Donegal**

The Chair, Councillor McNamee welcomed representatives from Road Victim Support Northern Ireland and Donegal to the meeting and invited them to make their presentation (Appendix 1).

Mr Karran & Ms Mullan advised the committee that Road Victim Support Northern Ireland-Donegal was a peer-led organisation supporting individuals and families affected by fatal and serious road collisions. The group provide a comprehensive, trauma-informed response to individuals, families and communities impacted by road traffic collisions. Support begins from the earliest moments of crisis and continues for as long as needed. Early intervention is offered including home visits to deliver immediate emotional support and assess each family's unique needs. A dedicated point of contact across 8 Council areas in Northern Ireland and Donegal ensuring localised, accessible support including online and in person support meetings in Mid Ulster, Derry City & Letterkenny. All the organisation's services are free, or donation based to ensure everyone can access the support they need, regardless of their financial situation. Alongside care, the group deliver community-based road safety initiatives designed to educate and influence road users of all ages including the tailored "Drive to Arrive" programme and also "It's Not Your Story to Tell" which highlight the behaviours around social media in the aftermath of a fatal road traffic collision where stories, images and videos have been shared causing additional trauma to the families, this has now progressed on to Caoimhe's Law. In conclusion the representatives stated that support is not time-limited – it is timeless.

The Chair thanked Eamonn and Debbie for their presentation and stated that it would lift your heart to hear such strong testimonies from them both having lived the harrowing experience.

Councillor McLernon wished to thank the group for their presentation and also pay tribute to all the families for all their efforts, dedication and support they provide to families including the educational aspect provided to young drivers. The member stated that the group were providing a valuable service that unfortunately was needed. In regard to Caoimhe's Law, this has been discussed in the majority of Councils across the North and this coming Monday a motion will be brought to the floor of the assembly with the Minister of Justice responding as families deserve privacy, dignity and compassion. The member said that images and social media do not provide answers as they only create new wounds and new trauma and the group should be all very proud of what they are doing and what they have done so far.

Councillor Quinn thanked the group for attending tonight to make their presentation and said that he was very lucky to attend the launch of the group back in March. The member stated that he had been advised to go along due to this amazing group being set up and over this last nine months he has been blown away by the work they have achieved. The group attended Stormont to support another motion which was to Prohibit Overtaking School Buses and their support was greatly appreciated by everyone. The member said that the group has really taken off and having listened to Marie (Caoimhe's Mother) over the last couple of months and the power that she has speaking about her daughter and the bravery of coming forward as he didn't think he would be able to do it, but was important to have special people like this to get laws made and changed. He was aware of the motion being brought to Stormont on Monday and would be really confident that everyone would be very supportive of it and be made law as quickly as possible which was all down to this group. The fact that this group offers counselling and support for victims, especially when there were over 40 deaths on the roads this year and 4,000 accidents, and this was just not for the families who unfortunately loses a loved one, it's also for people involved in car accidents, which has to be commended due to the amount of people needing help in the past and nothing there until this group was established. The member felt that the group were a credit and was delighted to see Caoimhe's Law being supported by all parties right across the north in different Chambers and was also aware there was a push for it down South and encouraged the group to keep up the good work.

Councillor Corry thanked Eamonn and Debbie and the rest of the group for attending the meeting tonight to make their presentation and said that this couldn't be easy especially when they faced their own personal tragedies. The member advised that she had a cousin killed in a motorbike accident and was due to canvas on the same road that the accident occurred a few years ago and whilst there weren't any videos or photos taken, there were several rumours and stories circulated of what happened. The member said that this was very traumatic for the family, and although they never found out what actually happened, the speculation wasn't easy. The member wished to offer her full support and wish the group every success on their campaign and their work on the wraparound service including support, education, workshops and programmes and also wished them every success on Caoimhe's Law campaign.

Councillor Wilson thanked the group for their presentation and concurred with what Councillor Quinn alluded to regarding their bravery and referred to the work they carry out which was excellent. The member advised that you often hear of tragedies, and you never stop being a parent and doesn't matter what age your children are, these are young people no matter what age they are. The member referred to the tragedy down

South where five people were killed in a car accident, reality strikes home even more when you hear the devastating news. The member advised that he and his party would be fully supportive of Caoimhe's Law and did say when Councillor Quinn brought this before Council that in the past when someone came upon a car accident or something similar, they tried their best to help but now instead the first thing they do is reach for their phone and even before the paramedics arrive, it's on social media which Councillor Quinn's referred to. The member thanked the group for their invaluable work and was an unfortunate situation that the group had to be set up to deal with this issue but wished them every success going forward.

Councillor F Burton thanked the group for coming along to the meeting tonight and concurred with comments regarding about a very harrowing story to tell as it's personal to each and every one who came along. The fact that the group go out and meet other families involved in the same tragedy situation of that they've have gone through and like everything, you have to walk in those shoes to really know how that person feels, and quite often we all think we know and hopefully never know as it was bound to be the worst thing that could happen to lose your own child and difficult to comprehend and come to terms with. The member said that she had advised the group that it may be worthwhile reaching out to NILGA which represents all of the Councils and if the group attend one of their meetings, this would allow them to gain access to all of the Councils right across Northern Ireland. The member advised that the work in which the group is carrying out is a credit to what they have lost and wished them continuing success in what they are doing and have the support of everyone around the table and would be confident that everyone in Stormont would be fully supportive of the campaign also. The member said that although social media can be seen as a useful tool for doing good, it also can be a tool for doing harm and as Councillor Wilson alluded to, it is a very sad reflection on society these days when the first thing people do is reach for their phone instead of helping. She wished the group continuing support for each other and especially at this time of the year when it should be family time which adds to the whole stress and that she would be thinking about them as they face Christmas.

Ms Mullan wished to thank the committee for allowing the group to attend the meeting tonight and a special thank you to Councillor Malachy Quinn as he reached out and contacted them and took this forward to Council and further afield and really appreciate any support as they were just advocates for other families voices as well as their own and there's a need to share these voices as far and as wide as possible. Ms Mullan said that they listen to their families as they are the people who have suffered this loss and concurred with comments regarding unless you have walked in these shoes, you really have no understanding of what it's like and often say to people try on my shoes, you'll soon kick them off because they are not the easiest pair to wear. Ms Mullan stated that she had lost her son at 17½ years old, ten years ago and similar to Eamonn's son he had passed his driving test and four weeks later he had unfortunately died on a rural country road, hit black ice and went into the path of an oncoming tractor and slurry tanker and killed instantly. Ms Mullan said that she was very grateful back then ten years ago it wasn't a thing to firstly pull your phone out, the local farmer ran to the car and an oncoming car stopped and came to offer help and support and this is what is supposed to happen, but unfortunately in today's society this is not the case. When the group listens to families and the trauma they have experienced, they try and take a positive from the negative and if a positive is taken by listening to these families and stopping untold trauma from happening and Caoimhe's Law is one way of

representing these families. If Caoimhe's Law is pushed through, then it can be said that something positive emerged from the negatives of losing these lives on the roads.

The Chair commended the group's bravery and wished them well in Caoimhe's Law campaign and would be confident that they would have the full support of the assembly come next week and looked forward to seeing it in statute.

*The representatives of Road Victim Support Northern Ireland – Donegal withdrew from the meeting at 7.33 pm.*

## **Matters for Decision**

### **D202/25      Development Report**

The Assistant Director of Development (AD: Dev) presented previously circulated report which sought approval for the following –

- Community Grants
- Irish Language Policy Review
- Coalisland Canal Heritage Signage
- Development Department – Update

Councillor McLernon proposed the recommendations and wished to comment on the Coalisland Canal Heritage Signage. The member stated that the heritage of Coalisland from the canal, coal mines, Kelly's yard and the weaving factory were all of historical significance to the heart of Coalisland's identity. The member wished to thank the officers for their engagement with all the various groups and all the work done and gone into this and looked forward to seeing the designs when they are going on the signage and would be a definitely welcomed addition to the Canal Project and the community of Coalisland.

Proposed by Councillor McLernon  
Seconded by Councillor Gildernew

**Resolved**      That it be recommended to Council to –

- Approve £600 grants allocation – Sports Representative Grants
- Approve the Irish Language Policy
- Approve concepts for the Coalisland Canal Heritage Signage
- Note the Development Department Update

Councillor Wilson referred to Irish Language Policy and stated we do not have anything within the minority languages on Ulster Scots which he had raised on numerous occasions and with the greatest respect, we were playing lip service to that as there was an increase in knowledge and a number of various other things including shows. The member felt that within the minority languages there should be some sort of policy on Ulster Scots.

The AD: Dev concurred with the member and stated that there was an Ulster Scots Policy that was adopted at the same time as the Irish language policy. It is planned to

carry out a similar review including an annual action plan. The AD: Dev said that members may notice the different activity that has taken place through a range of the Council venues, and this will continue, and will be further developed and incorporated into one plan. Conversations have commenced with the Ulster Scots Agency to develop the plan and to start the review of the policy.

Councillor Wilson said as a point of clarification advised that two policies came out together at that particular time but have only one here before members and enquired when it was anticipated that the Ulster Scots policy would come back before members.

The AD: Dev advised that the Irish Language Policy review was completed through the different working groups and had taken approximately 5 to 6 months and anticipated the same amount of time in relation to taking the Ulster Scots review through. She said that due to separating out the policy and action plan which would be developed based on budget it was planned to have the action plan ready around March time and hoped to have the policy a couple of months after; the action plan can proceed, and policy follow.

Councillor F Burton concurred with Councillor Wilson's comments and said that it was important that everyone was represented and acknowledged in the same process within Council.

Councillor F Burton advised that she had attended a wonderful event at The Hill of The O'Neill recently where Paula McIntyre carried out a cooking demonstration on Ulster Scots type food to a sellout crowd. The member said that it was an excellent event, and everyone really enjoyed it and felt that it would be very beneficial if there some more of these types of events to raise the profile of the Ulster Scots.

Councillor F Burton referred to page 5 of the report, The Hill of The O'Neill & Ranfurly House and said that she had attended 'Echoes from the Barley Field' event with Dr Ciarán Reilly in attendance. The member advised that it was very insightful in relation to the workhouse behind the South Tyrone Hospital and Dr Reilly had referred to people who were her neighbours in Minterburn years ago and felt that this may be a leveraging tool to help generate some financial support for Clogher event also.

Councillor Quinn sought update in relation to Gortgonis Centre and said that he was aware this was still with solicitor teams and was hoped that everything would now be sorted and ready to move forward. The member sought clarification on a definitive timeline.

The AD: Dev advised that the officer team were working away on the design for the recreational build and trying to do this as a dual process to the legals to have a design freeze ready to sign off by members in the new year. Regular updates were received from the legal team, but the issue is that there were four legal teams involved each going through the different phases. The AD: Dev advised that this was being progressed as quickly as possible and would be difficult to set a timeline for the legals, but once the legals are sorted then we would be ready to go with the final design.

## **D203/25 DfC Consultation on Advice and Debt Framework 2025**

The Assistant Director of Development (SD: Dev) presented previously circulated report to note consultation response in support of the Independent Community Advice Managers Collective Response to Department for Communities Support for Advice and Debt Framework 2025.

Proposed by Councillor W Buchanan  
Seconded by Councillor F Burton and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to note consultation response in support of the Independent Community Advice Managers Collective Response to Department for Communities Support for Advice and Debt Framework 2025.

## **D204/25 Funding Offer from Department of Business & Trade 2025-2026**

The Assistant Director of Health, Leisure and Wellbeing (AD: HL&W) presented previously circulated report to inform members of a potential funding offer opportunity for the Environmental Health Service from the Office of Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) for “The Capacity & Capability Building Programme in Northern Ireland: Non-Food Products 2025/2026. Funding is for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026.

Proposed by Councillor F Burton  
Seconded by Councillor Wilson and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to accept the offer of funding from OPSS (up to a maximum of £49,500) in relation to activities undertaken in 2025/2026 and if accepted, that the funding agreement between Mid Ulster District Council and the OPSS is signed and returned (via DocuSign).

## **D205/25 Economic Development Report - OBFD**

The Assistant Director of Economic Development, Tourism & Strategic Programmes (AD: EDT&SP) presented previously circulated report which provided update on –

- Draft Consultation Response to Department for Communities Disability and Work: A Strategy for Northern Ireland
- Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership (LMP) 2025-2026 Funding
- Draft Consultation Response to Department for the Economy’s ‘A Definition of Social Enterprise in Northern Ireland’

The AD: EDT&SP referred to Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership (LMP) 2025-2026 Funding and said as a point of clarity that the Action Plan for 2025-26 can be found on page 160 of the documents and conversely later in the agenda at item 12 the Labour Market Partnership Annual Report for 2024-25 can be found on page 93.

Councillor F Burton proposed the recommendations.

Councillor F Burton referred to LMP and HGV Training Academy with a dearth of lorry drivers. The member said that there was a dearth within Mid Ulster of carers especially in rural areas and had asked LMP staff previously if there was any way this could be investigated as part of the future schemes. The member advised that a number of years ago there had been a scheme for a caring role, but it seemed that a lot of these went into care homes, and this is exactly where we want to keep people out of. The member asked if there was any way that this could be investigated to try and keep people in their own homes and some way of training up younger and mature people. Within rural areas a lot of the carers are from the older generation with a lot of them retiring or being physically unable to carry out their duties due to ill health. The member advised that she was aware of 92-year-old gentleman, a 97-year-old lady and an 87-year-old lady who is not allowed out of her seat and unable to make herself a cup of tea due to her being powerless to stand without holding onto a zimmer frame and the risk to her being scalded by boiling water. The member felt that there was a lack of empathy for these people and being told their care was finishing on a certain date is very tough which she has had many a sleepless night over as she knows them very well. If there is no entitlement to care at their ages, then when would you be entitled to care and hoped that this could be something that the Council could look at. The member stated that she had been around the block liaising with the appropriate channels which was all about policy and procedures and someone on the phone who doesn't want you to talk on behalf of someone you wish to represent is most frustrating, torture to go through. The member said that for those families who contact Councillors on a daily basis seeking an update, it's frustrating as it's impossible to get to the appropriate person to get answers and to find out if there was any hope of allocated care. Someone had made the suggestion to her about contacting the Nolan Show but there was an onus to ensure that every avenue was investigated before making contact.

Councillor Wilson referred to LMP Board meeting attendance of 52% over the year which was just over half and enquired if we were happy with that attendance record. The member said if this were anywhere else, questions would be asked and would be useful to have a list of the attendees and their attendance.

The AD: EDT&SP in response to Councillor F Burton's query regarding carers advised that it was a widespread problem, not just in Mid Ulster but beyond. The AD: EDT&SP said that unfortunately there was nothing that could be done in the current financial year with the additional funding the LMP has received as these projects have to be delivered before the end of the financial year but agreed to liaise with her team with a view to investigating if there were any opportunities in future years.

The AD: EDT&SP in response to Councillor Wilson's query regarding LMP Board attendance advised that details are held of who attended these meetings, therefore, the matter could be investigated further. The AD: EDT&SP agreed that it would be useful to carry out a review to see if there were consistent LMP members not attending meetings. If this was the case, contact could be made with these members to determine whether it was their intention to continue serving on the LMP Board, or whether they need to be replaced.

Proposed by Councillor F Burton  
Seconded by Councillor McLernon and

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to –
- **Draft Consultation Response to Department for Communities Disability and Work: A Strategy for Northern Ireland**
    - **Approve** Council’s draft response to Department for Communities Public Consultation on ‘*Disability and Work: A Strategy for Northern Ireland*’ and submit to DfC by 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026.
  - **Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership (LMP) 2025-26 Funding**
    - **Note** update on Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership 2025-2026
    - **Retrospectively Approve** the acceptance of the additional funding offer from Department for Communities, dated 11<sup>th</sup> November 2025, totalling £100,643.98, for Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership for the 2025-2026 financial year, and grant approval retrospectively for Council’s Chief Executive to sign and return the Addendum to the Letter of Offer by 18<sup>th</sup> November 2025.
    - **Approve** to investigate LMP Board members attendance at meetings and possible review.
  - **Draft Consultation Response to Department for the Economy’s ‘A Definition of Social Enterprise in Northern Ireland’**
    - **Approve** Council’s draft response to Department for the Economy’s public consultation on ‘*A Definition of Social Enterprise in Northern Ireland*’ and submit to DfE by 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2025.

## **Matters for Information**

### **D206/25 Minutes of Development Committee held on 13 November 2025**

Members noted Minutes of Development Committee held on 13 November 2025.

### **D207/25 Environmental Health Service Update**

Members noted update on the work of the Environmental Health Service during August to October 2025.

### **D208/25 Economic Development Report - OBFI**

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on the following key activities –

- Digital Transformation Flexible Fund (DTFF): Update on Call 5
- A5/N2 Cross Border Committee Minutes – 12.06.25
- Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership (LMP) Annual Report 2024-25
- Lough Neagh Partnership Service Level Agreement (2025-2026) – 6 Month Update Report (1 April 2025 – 30 September 2025)

The Chair wished the public viewing a very Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year.

*The live broadcast ended at 7.54 pm.*

## **Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business**

Proposed by Councillor McLernon  
Seconded by Councillor Bell and

**Resolved** In accordance with Section 42, Part 1 Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 that Members of the public in accordance with Section 42, Part 1 Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 that Members of the public be asked to withdraw from the meeting whilst members consider items D209/25 to D

### **Matters for Decision**

D209/25 SHHP Bellaghy Bawn Writers Residency Project  
D210/25 Generalist Advice Service Contract Extension  
D211/25 Peace Plus Tender Awards  
D212/25 Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Programmes  
Development Report - Cbfd

### **Matters for Information**

D213/25 Confidential Minutes of Development Committee held on 13  
November 2025

### **D214/25 Duration of Meeting**

The meeting was called for 7pm and ended at 8.05 pm.

Chair \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## **Annex A – Introductory Remarks from the Chairperson**

Good evening and welcome to the Council's [Policy & Resources/Environment/Development] Committee in the Chamber, [Cookstown/Magherafelt] and virtually.

I specifically welcome the public watching us through the Live Broadcast. The Live Broadcast will run for the period of our Open Business but will end just before we move into Confidential Business. I let you know before this happens.

Just some housekeeping before we commence. Can I remind you:-

- If you have joined the meeting remotely, please keep your audio on mute unless invited to speak and then turn it off when finished speaking
- Keep your video on at all times, unless you have bandwidth or internet connection issues, where you are advised to try turning your video off
- If you wish to speak please raise your hand in the meeting or on screen and keep raised until observed by an Officer or myself
- Should we need to take a vote this evening I will ask each member to confirm whether they are for or against the proposal or abstaining
- When invited to speak please introduce yourself by name to the meeting
- For any member attending remotely, if you declare an interest in an item, please turn off your video and keep your audio on mute for the duration of the item
- If referring to a specific report please reference the report, page or slide being referred to
- Lastly, I remind the public and press that taking photographs of proceedings or using any means to enable anyone not present to see or hear proceedings, or making a simultaneous oral report of the proceedings are not permitted

Thank you and we will now move to the first item on the agenda - apologies and then roll call of all other Members in attendance.

# Road Victim Support Northern Ireland Donegal



Road Victim Support Northern Ireland–Donegal is a peer-led organisation supporting individuals and families affected by fatal and serious road collisions. We provide a comprehensive, trauma-informed response to individuals, families, and communities impacted by road traffic collisions.

Our support begins from the earliest moments of crisis and continues for as long as needed — weeks, months, or even years after the event. Uniquely, everyone involved with the organisation, including all professionals delivering services, comes from lived experience, ensuring genuine empathy and understanding. We are the only organisation of this kind in Northern Ireland and Donegal.

We offer early intervention, including home visits to deliver immediate emotional support and assess each family's unique needs. Once a referral is made — whether through a Family Liaison Officer (FLO) or via our online self-referral portal — we then develop a tailored care package for everyone affected.

Our services include: A dedicated point of contact across 8 council areas in Northern Ireland and Donegal, ensuring localised, accessible support. Monthly online or in person support meetings in Mid Ulster, Derry City & Letterkenny, Peer support and Listening Ear assistance, delivered by those with lived experience. Access to specialised trauma and bereavement counselling, including one-to-one and group sessions. Children's and Young Persons Trauma therapist, Practical help navigating the aftermath of a collision, including support at inquests, collision re-enactments, and court proceedings. Long-term emotional support, recognising that grief and trauma unfold over time. We remain alongside individuals and families through anniversaries, triggers, and community milestones.

All our services are free or donation-based to ensure everyone can access the support they need, regardless of their financial situation. Our support is not time-limited — it is timeless.

## Meet Our Council Areas Representatives



Alongside care, we deliver community-based road safety initiatives designed to Educate and Influence road users of all ages. This includes our tailored **“Drive to Arrive”** programme, which can be adapted for the groups most affected by road traffic collisions – particularly young people and those over 65. Which we deliver from a lived experience perspective. By sharing our own stories – of how our loved ones had goals, aspirations, and were exactly at the same age and stage of life as those we are speaking to – we bring a powerful truth to the message.

As parents, siblings, and family members, we share the devastating reality of receiving **“The knock at the door.”** This type of truth visualisation makes people sit up and take note, as we introduce them to our loved ones and their stories. We show how something as ordinary as going out for a loaf of bread can turn into a life-changing tragedy – or how a hurried **“Bye, love you Ma”** can echo as the very last words a mother will ever hear as their child heads out for a night with friends.

The programme also includes family-led awareness campaigns such as **“It’s Not Your Story to Tell”**, which highlight the behaviours around social media in the aftermath of a fatal road traffic collision where stories, images and videos have been shared causing additional trauma to the families, this has now progressed on to **Caolmhe’s Law**.

We also place a particular focus on rural roads, where conditions can be more hazardous and collisions more deadly. We highlight the unique risks posed by speed, weather, visibility, and distractions on country roads, drawing attention to the **Fatal Five** – and the importance of adapting driving behaviour accordingly. Our messaging targets both drivers and passengers, encouraging passengers – especially young people – to **Find their voice** if they feel unsafe. Road safety is a shared responsibility, and passengers must feel empowered to speak up against dangerous driving



## RVSND

Road Victim Support Northern Ireland-Donegal

### Drive to Arrive: Road Safety Through Lived Experience

Workshops are delivered by survivors from families who have lost loved ones in a road traffic collision. Supported by specialist trauma and bereavement counsellors. All facilitators are trained in mental health first aid, all staff display suitable information skills training, and listening for support.



PROJECT OVERVIEW	WHO WILL BENEFIT	PROJECT OBJECTIVES	ACTION PLAN	DURATION & SCHEDULE
<p>The workshop uses powerful real-life testimony from families who have lost loved ones in road collisions to engage young people in meaningful conversations about road safety, personal responsibility, and the impact of choices. Participants leave with practical tools to keep themselves and others safe, both as drivers and road users.</p>	<p><b>Target Audience</b> (Current aged 16+ (former 16-17 age group)) Particularly those presenting for newly starting driving</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students – gain real-world understanding of road responsibility, and confidence to speak up when needed</li> <li>Parents – peace of mind knowing young people are more prepared and aware of dangers on the road</li> <li>Schools/Communities – reduction in risky behaviour, lowering of penalties, penalties, and active citizenship</li> <li>Water Safety – safer roads, lower penalties, and stronger peer-led safety culture.</li> </ul>	<p>By the end of the session, participants will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understand the Fatal Five causes of road fatalities</li> <li>Recognise the lasting impact of injury, pain and road collisions</li> <li>Learn how to use their voice confidently when they feel unsafe in a car or when others are driving dangerously</li> <li>Explore the responsible use of mobile phones and headphones in public spaces and on roads</li> <li>Be introduced to practical tools in the LHM app that support safety and reassurance for young drivers and families</li> <li>Consider how they can help promote the changes that protect themselves, their peers, and their community.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>16+ participants who are able to deliver the workshop</li> <li>It's Not Your Story to Tell – responsible road user Caolmhe's Law</li> <li>Fatal Five – speaking, discussion, alcohol drug, medical, camera, driving &amp; OHSAT</li> <li>Your loved one's Power – speaking up when you feel unsafe</li> <li>Impact to speak with the families of their daughter (high school student)</li> <li>Local Emergency Services – stories from bereaved families</li> <li>Practical awareness of the emotional and mental consequences of road collisions</li> <li>Practical advice on communication, empathy, and responsible driving</li> <li>Encourage participants to speak up in unsafe situations (find your voice)</li> <li>Practice role and experience environment for reflection and personal learning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Single session: 60-75 minutes</li> <li>Optional follow-on programme: Voices for Change (week 6) creative project where students design their own road safety campaign through media, poster design, or short films)</li> </ul> <p><b>Requirements / Materials</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Venue: 2 classrooms and use of assembly hall</li> <li>Room 1: Standard AV setup (Projector/screen, sound for videos and music)</li> <li>Background element as there is an interactive element w/ VR Headsets</li> </ul>

**Conclusion**  
The Drive to Arrive workshop is more than a road safety talk – it is a powerful, lived experience programme that connects directly with young people at a critical stage of their lives. By combining personal testimony, practical safety tools, and interactive discussion, it empowers students to make safer choices, speak up when they feel unsafe, and understand the life-changing consequences of road collisions. This workshop not only benefits the students themselves, but also their families, schools, and communities by fostering responsibility, resilience, and awareness. With every story shared and every conversation sparked, Drive to Arrive moves us closer to a culture where every learner is valued, every life is protected, and no family faces the devastation of road trauma alone.

Following on from the Drive to Arrive programme participants can continue with our, **Voices for Change Workshop**, which is a 4-week creative road safety programme that empowers those to design their own safety messages through posters, media, and short films. , it gives participants the chance to turn what they've learned into campaigns that speak directly to their peers.

The project not only develops creativity and confidence but ensures voices are heard in shaping safer communities.

We also expanding our work to support the 65+ community with free eyesight testing and refresher workshops for older drivers. These sessions provide practical guidance on modern driving conditions, the impact of medication, and new road technologies, while promoting confidence through safe solutions such as avoiding night driving or asking a family member for a lift.

This builds on our Drive to Arrive programme, adapting its core road safety messages and lived-experience approach to meet the needs of older drivers.

The focus is on safety, dignity, and independence, while helping prevent future tragedies through education and early intervention



# RVSNI

## Road Victim Support Northern Ireland-Donegal

### Drive to Arrive: Voices of change 4 Week Workshop

Workshops are delivered by:  
 Bereavement team with Road Survivors of losing a loved one in a road traffic  
 accident to provide trauma and bereavement counselling  
 All facilitators are trained to support mental health, alcohol and drug use, bereavement, grief, and leaving the road



PROJECT OVERVIEW	WHO WILL BENEFIT	PROJECT OBJECTIVES	ACTION PLAN	DURATION & SCHEDULE
<p>Voices of Change is an innovative bereavement programme designed to empower bereaved to create their own road safety messages through creative writing, poster design, and short film production. Building on the Drive to Arrive workshop, this project gives young people the chance to move from listening to lived experience to becoming advocates and creators of change themselves.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Students</b> - by gaining skills in creativity, media, and advocacy while applying their voices on issues that affect them.</li> <li><b>Subsides</b> - by linking road safety learning to curriculum subjects such as history, music, art, English, and Art &amp; Design.</li> <li><b>Families &amp; Communities</b> - through creative, youth-driven campaigns that resonate with peers and promote safer choices.</li> <li><b>Road Safety Partners (RSPs)</b> - Road to Zero, local to you! - through activities in schools co-designed by young people.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>To Educate</b> - increase awareness of road safety risks and responsibilities among young people.</li> <li><b>To Provide</b> - opportunities for creative expression and practical media skills to further learning.</li> <li><b>To Engage</b> - empower students to share their perspective on gaps in current road safety education.</li> <li><b>To Collaborate</b> - connect students, schools, families, and road safety partners in co-creating impactful campaigns.</li> <li><b>To Develop</b> - youth leadership, communication, and advocacy by amplifying student voices in public campaigns.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Week 1 - Introduction &amp; Day 1 Analysis</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore existing campaigns.</li> <li>Discuss where young people feel current road safety messaging falls short.</li> </ul> <p><b>Week 2 - Skills Development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduction to poster design, video, filmmaking, image collection, and digital marketing.</li> <li>Students create direction.</li> </ul> <p><b>Week 3 - Production</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students work in teams to design posters, videos, or films, identifying their audience and creating professional-quality products.</li> </ul> <p><b>Week 4 - Evaluation &amp; Reflection</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Present campaigns to peers, school staff, and community representatives.</li> <li>Plan feedback and ways to share educational materials.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Length: 4 sessions (1 per week), approx. 1-2 hours each.</li> <li>Total Project Duration: 4 weeks.</li> <li>Optional Showcase: End-of-year awards ceremony or prize-giving event with community road safety partners.</li> </ul> <p><b>Requirements / Materials</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Standard classroom or ICT/media suite access.</li> <li>Printer, advertising materials, or digital design printing tools (depending on chosen medium).</li> <li>Project resources for advertising work.</li> <li>School staff support in progress with curriculum delivery relevant.</li> </ul>

Checklist of tasks for creative campaigning, to be completed by young people, to be shared with schools, community groups, and members of the media. Details and links to resources are provided for each task. The project has been designed to be flexible and adaptable to suit schools and community groups. The project requires the support of Drive to Arrive facilitators in the workshop and online support - details are in the Drive to Arrive workshop materials and online support. The project has been designed to be flexible and adaptable to suit schools and community groups. The project requires the support of Drive to Arrive facilitators in the workshop and online support - details are in the Drive to Arrive workshop materials and online support.



# 11 Months of impact Building the foundation for collaboration

## 11 MONTHS OF IMPACT BUILDING THE FOUNDATION FOR COLLABORATION

**Family Support A the Heart**  
We have supported 87 families across Donegal and Northern Ireland, walking with them in the hardest moments of their lives.

In just 10 short months, Road Victim Support NI Donegal has already made a tangible difference:

**Fundraising with a purpose**  
We have raised £15,000 in fundraising, always involving families in deciding how funds are spent - in memory of their loved ones. The Leah Ferguson referral cards are one example of a family-led initiative now helping others access support more quickly.

**Strong Collaborations**  
We are building strong partnerships - including with SafeShel - showing we can collaborate effectively and deliver meaningful results.  
<https://safeshel.com/#>

**Funding & Momentum**  
Secured key funding streams and demonstrated how quickly impact can be delivered. With the funding support we have already received, we have shown how much can be achieved in a short time. With PCSP collaboration, the impact could be so much greater.

**Community Presence Growing**  
Our presence within communities has grown significantly, with families at the heart of everything we do.

**Recognised & Trusted**  
We have been honoured as Donegal Rally Charity of the Year and Derry City FC Flagship Charity, reflecting the trust communities place in us.



# Caoimhe's Law

Championed by  
Road Victim Support Northern Ireland - Donegal

Road Victim Support Northern  
Ireland-Donegal  
**STOP THE SHARING.**  
SUPPORT  
COAIMHÉ'S  
LAW



#DignityForVictim

#StopTheSharing

Caoimhé's Law will make it a criminal offence to record, share, or publish images and videos of victims from fatal or critical road collisions without consent.

No family should ever find out about their loved one's death through social media.

This is about dignity, compassion, and accountability.

SIGN THE PETITION. ADD YOUR VOICE.  
DEMAND CHANGE. #Caoimhe'sLaw



## Protecting Dignity: The SafeShel Collaboration



SafeShel is a simple, practical privacy shield that protects victims' dignity at the scene of a collision. It complements Caoimhé's Law by preventing harmful images from being taken in the first place, reducing trauma for families. We believe SafeShel should be part of every emergency responder's kit, and with PCSP's support, we can make dignity and compassion standard in every response.



# Final Note

Please take a moment  
and sign our Petition

