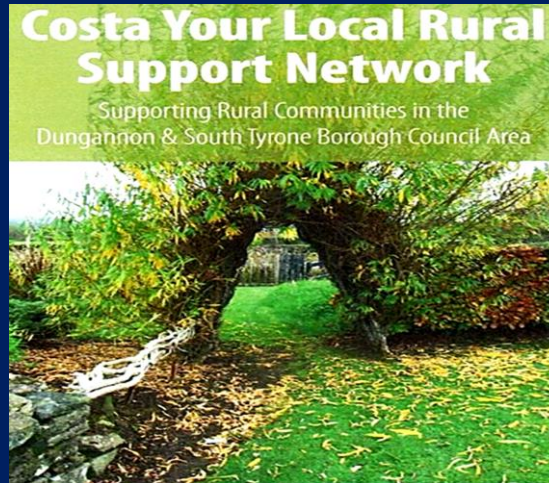


# COSTA Annual Report



## 2023 / 2024

### Inside this Report

1. Chairperson's Address
2. Network Development Manager's Report
3. COSTA Staff & Board
4. Local Rural Support Networks (LRSNs)
5. COSTA Online
6. Local Rural CD Support Service (LRCDSS)
7. Snapshot of the Year
8. Highlights of the Year
9. DAERA Rural Micro Capital Grant Scheme (DRMCG) 2022
10. Funders



Community  
Organisations of  
South  
Tyrone &  
Area



## Community Organisations of South Tyrone & Areas Ltd

President Grant's Homestead  
45 Dergenagh Road, Dungannon, Co Tyrone, BT70 1TW

**T: 028 855 56880      F: 028 855 56881**

**E: [info.costa@btconnect.com](mailto:info.costa@btconnect.com)      W: [www.costaruralsupportnetwork.org](http://www.costaruralsupportnetwork.org)**

### COSTA is funded by

Department of Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs via DAERA's Local Rural Community Development Support Service Tackling Rural Poverty & Social Isolation Programme, Mid Ulster District Council, Department for Communities and Peace IV

Registered Company in Northern Ireland No: NI 42832 Recognised Charity in NI No: NIC101598



## Chairperson's Address

**Hello and a very warm welcome to all for COSTA's 24<sup>th</sup> AGM!**

You are all very welcome to the Killymaddy Centre, home to Killeeshill & Clonaneese Historical Society. We are delighted to be hosted here tonight and it is so hard to believe that COSTA is now actually in its 25<sup>th</sup> year!

We hope that tonight will be informative but also enjoyable and good for some networking.

Just a little later one of our dedicated Directors, Heather McLaughlin, Head of European Projects, will give us a very interesting overview of the EU Projects and Partners that the Rural Centre in Clogher has recently engaged, and a brief overview of Cultural Awareness. It is great to know that this important work is still continuing despite Brexit.

COSTA thanks and acknowledges our keystone funder the Department of Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs (DEARA), which makes the Network possible, and for their role in ensuring continuation of the Tackling Rural Poverty & Social Inclusion (TRPSI) Scheme, and the Rural Micro Capital Grant Scheme which has funded groups throughout the Mid Ulster District and the region for 10 years now. We will also tell you more about the most recent tranche which opened just a couple of weeks ago.

I give a note of sincere thanks to all my fellow Board members, and of course to Mid Ulster District Council for their many years of funding and dedicated support. I take this opportunity to congratulate one of our MUDC representatives Cllr Eugene McConnell on his recent appointment as the new MUDC Chairperson. We wish him luck in what will be a very busy year ahead.

Unfortunately this year we lost another Board Member who was a true and long-standing community champion. John Burrell MBE passed away on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2023 surrounded by his family. John, reaching the age of 86 years, had been involved in numerous community organisations and initiatives for at least 40 years. He was also very well known for his role as school Principle of Fivemiletown High School. John joined COSTA on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2014 as one of our long-serving and dedicated Directors. John is hugely missed by all and his absence for the local community, particularly in Fivemiletown, is truly felt. We extend our deepest sympathy to John's family and friends.



COSTA continues providing for the local community via our single staff member, Development Manager, Loraine Griffin. Along with Conor Corr, Seamus Donnelly and Marguerite Quinn of CWSAN a further year of the DAERA Local Rural Community Development Support Service (LRCDSS) contract has been delivered throughout Mid Ulster District as part of 7 regional providers. Our close partnership with CWSAN – who cover the Cookstown and Magherafelt areas - continues on strongly and we hopefully look forward to many more years of joint working across our District and from our Office at President Grant's Homestead.

I also present our Annual Report which showcases the level and diversity of our work both for and in the local community.

I trust that COSTA can continue on into the future particularly in the face of continued uncertainty, funding cuts and possible far-reaching changes post-general election on 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

I wish you, your communities, groups and villages all the very best going forward. COSTA is here to support you all.

**Richard Knox - COSTA Chairperson**



## Network Development Manager's Report

**Welcome everyone as we celebrate our 23<sup>rd</sup> Birthday!**

It is great to be back in the almost world-famous former Killymaddy Tourist Site. Sincere thanks to Killeeshill and Clonaneese Historical Society for hosting us tonight and it is a great local community venue.

As we enter into the third and final year of the current RCDSS contract under DAERA, COSTA has delivered: 18 Newsletters to over 500 contacts, 185 Website updates, and 342 Facebook posts. We have actively supported and engaged over 617 times with local Groups, Communities and Villages including: 116 Capacity Building supports, 81 Governance supports and 55 Funding Application supports. We ran 7 'Open Door Days' with 26 Groups / 41 attendees, 12 Workshops with 55 participants including: 'A Quick Guide to GDPR', 'Basic Financial Management', 'Charity Registration & Annual Returns,' 'Update & Changes to UK Company Law,' 'Funding Information & Readiness,' attended 22 Joint Voluntary Community Sector Forum Meetings and actively engaged with scores of networks, agencies and fora locally and regionally. Our key activities can be viewed on pages 8 - 24 of this Report.

COSTA and CWSAN have just launched into the latest DAERA Rural Micro Capital Grant Scheme 2024 which is expected to beat all records again with regarding uptake.

Thank you to Conor, Marguerite, Seamy, Anita, Denise, Gerry, Josie, and everyone in CWSAN for working so hard throughout. Indeed Seamus Donnelly has been essential in co-facilitating the Rural Village Renewal initiatives in Clogher and Aughnacloy and delivering the Minority Marginalised Communities (MMC) Programme along the border.

I extend thanks to Mid Ulster District Council for their continued funding and support of COSTA, to Philip Clarke as our Statutory Representative, and Ted and Faye Sharkey for their hard work in keeping President Grant's Homestead such a beautiful and welcoming place.

As I always say, it is the Committees, Boards, Trustees and Volunteers who are truly worthy of thanks because without those individuals giving of their own time, expertise and often personal resources, there would be no Third Sector and so much could simply never be done, in and for, our local communities.

A huge 'thank you' goes to the entire COSTA Board who are so supportive and volunteer their time and expertise so diligently: Richard Knox (Chairperson), Trevor Lockhart (Secretary), Heather McLaughlin (Treasurer), Carmen Hamill, Rosina O'Neill, Sharon McAleer, Raymond Harrison, Anthony McGonnell, and Wilfred Mitchell OBE.

We all deeply miss our Fivemiletown representative the late John Burrell MBE, however we also feel so lucky to have had him serve as one of our Directors for 10 years. Our thoughts are with John's family.

Thank you to our Council Members Cllrs: Eugene McConnell, Gael Gildernew, Dominic Molloy, Meta Graham, and Karol McQuade for their knowledge, experience and contacts.

I must also extend, both my and the COSTA Board's, deepest sympathy to the Gildernew and O'Faoláin families, especially Fiona and Shane on the tragic passing of their son Fiachra at only 21 years old. Fiona O'Faoláin covered maternity leave in COSTA back in 2010 so we were truly shocked and saddened to hear of this news. Our thoughts are with the entire family as we know so many those affected plus the community and groups impacted.

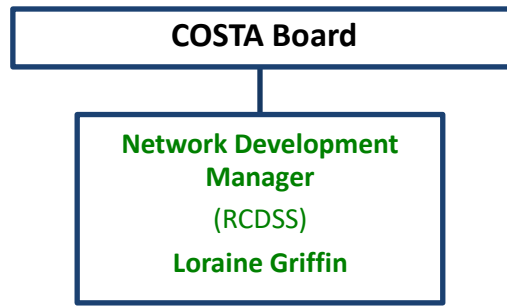
We encourage our membership and local groups to make contact for any assistance required and it is good to get back out to see you all again while still being able to fully accommodate online meetings too. So please give us a call any time as we encourage everyone to reach out, to stay in touch, to stay informed, and keep-up-to-date via our FaceBook pages, Website and Mail Chimp E-Newsletter Updates.

Despite times being difficult for the Sector currently, COSTA aims to meet all challenges ahead and to see that we continue to have a **local office** and a **local service** here to support our local communities as **YOUR Local Support Network** for the Dungannon and South Tyrone area ; )

**Lorraine Griffin – Network Development Manager**



## COSTA Staff



## COSTA Board of Directors

Richard Knox	<b>Chairperson</b>	
Carmen Hamill	<b>Vice Chairperson</b>	Raymond Harrison
Trevor Lockhart	<b>Secretary &amp; Company Secretary</b>	Rosina O’Neill
Heather McLaughlin	<b>Treasurer</b>	Anthony McGonnell
John Burrell MBE	<i>(Deceased 6/12/2023)</i>	Prof Wilfred Mitchell OBE
Sharon McAleer	<i>(Appointed 22/06/2023)</i>	David McFarlane <i>(Resigned 22/06/2023)</i>

## Associate Board Members

Cllr Meta Graham		Cllr Gael Gildernew	<i>(Appointed 22/06/2023)</i>
Cllr Dominic Molloy		Cllr Karol McQuade	<i>(Appointed 22/06/2023)</i>
Cllr Sean McGuigan	<i>(Resigned 22/06/2023)</i>	Cllr Eugene McConnell	<i>(Appointed 22/06/2023)</i>
Cllr Frances Burton	<i>(Resigned 22/06/2023)</i>		

## Statutory Representative

Philip Clarke – Mid Ulster District Council – Community Development Manager

## Bankers

**Ulster Bank Ltd**  
14 High Street  
Omagh  
Co Tyrone  
BT78 1BJ

## Accountants

**Mac Neary Rasdale & Co**  
Registered Accountants & Auditors  
30 Darling Street  
Enniskillen  
Co Fermanagh



# The Local Rural Support Networks

- Supporting rural living across Northern Ireland -

## A Unique Rural Infrastructure

COSTA is one of 8 independent Local Rural Support Networks networked together under a unique rural focus. This strong and unique rural infrastructure covers all of rural Northern Ireland.

The Local Networks draw members who are largely rural and cover a wide range of community and voluntary sector organisations in their area of remit including: community groups, social economy, play groups, farmers, women, youth, disability and older people etc.

The LRSNs have been officially recognised as an example of good practice and an essential conduit between rural communities and statutory bodies – providing communities with access to the decision making process, and decision makers with a means of tapping into the expert local knowledge on the ground.

We are membership based and our Management Boards are elected each year at AGM from our member groups. Our primary aim is to support local groups and organisations to achieve what they want for their community. **We help groups to help themselves by working *with* groups and *not for* groups.** Visit: [www.localruralsupportnetworks.org](http://www.localruralsupportnetworks.org) for further information.



View the Local Rural Support Networks RCDSS Video at:

<https://youtu.be/loUG-6T3tII>

## COSTA Online

Follow us on our Facebook Pages for the latest NEWS on all forthcoming Projects, Events, Training and Workshops.

All COSTA's Newsletters, Annual Reports and Leaflets can now be accessed on-line and downloaded as pdf documents.

COSTA Website: [www.costaruralsupportnetwork.org](http://www.costaruralsupportnetwork.org)



# Rural Community Development Support Service (RCDSS)



Community Organisations of South Tyrone & Areas (COSTA) in conjunction with Cookstown and Western Shores Area Network (CWSAN) have continue to work in close partnership. With over 13 years now already completed, we strive towards the start of our 14th year, from April 2024, delivering a newly updated 'Local Rural Community Development Service' for the Mid Ulster area covering the Dungannon and South Tyrone area (COSTA) and the Cookstown & Magherafelt areas (CWSAN).

The key themes of this current contract with the Department of Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs (DAERA) supported through their **Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation Framework (TRPSI)**:

- 1. Support for Community Planning;**
- 2. Support for Isolated Rural People;**
- 3. Support the Sustainability of Rural Villages;**
- 4. Support for Marginalised Minority Communities in Rural Border Areas (MMC);**
- 5. DAERA Rural Micro Capital Grant Scheme 2023.**

The LRCDS provides on-going practical Community Development support services - responsive local needs:

- **Community Office at U.S. Grants & Rural Outreach Service.**
- **Events / Workshops / Visits / Meetings.**
- **Signposting / Information / Practical assistance.**
- **Newsletters / E-Bulletins / Public Relations.**
- **Facebook Page / Website / Social Media.**
- **Funding / 'Grant-Tracker' searches.**
- **Assistance with funding applications.**
- **Networking & Sharing expertise.**
- **Capacity Building & Training.**
- **Good Practice Checklists & Action Plans.**
- **Governance & Board / Management Committee Skills.**
- **Office Services – access to photocopying, fax and email.**
- **Resources, Library, Equipment Loan.**
- **Community Audit (support), SWOTs, Profiles, Statistics / NINIS.**
- **Policies, Procedures, Good Practice, Guides.**
- **Needs Assessments, Skills Reviews.**
- **Wide range of Management & Leadership Support Services.**



The Local Rural Community Development Service is funded by the Department of Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs (DAERA) under the Tackling Rural Poverty & Social Isolation (TRPSI) Programme.

# COSTA Rural Support Network - Snapshot of the Year



The new DAERA Rural Community Development Support Service (RCDSS) has been awarded in 8 geographical catchments (Lots) to 6 providers plus COSTA. This ensures a Northern Ireland-wide service for rural communities which are largely defined as ‘people living in communities or settlements of less than 4,000 people’.

DAERA has a key role in the delivery of the cross-departmental outcomes and a particular emphasis on overarching outcomes: **We live and work sustainably – protecting the environment.** Of particular importance to DAERA and the Networks are Outcomes 2 and 3, Outcome 2 – A clean, healthy environment, benefitting nature and the economy. The LRSDSS is a key part of delivering on **Outcome 3 – A thriving rural economy, contributing to prosperity and well-being.**

**COSTA and CWSAN secured funding to continue to deliver the Rural CD Support service in Mid Ulster from October 2023 hopefully into early 2025.**

## The COSTA Local Rural Community Development Support Service (LRCDSS) delivered across the Dungannon & South Tyrone area of Mid Ulster District:

### 1. Support for Community Planning:

- 18 Newsletters and 1 COSTA Support Signposting Directory (24/11/2023) to 500+ Groups.
- 25 Email-outs to 500+ Groups.
- 185 Website updates.
- 342 posts on 2 Facebook Pages.
- 2 Facebook Pages: 558 Followers and 507 Page Likes / 52 Check-ins.
- 617 LRCDSS supports to groups.
- 14 Good Practice Checklists (Community Planning).
- 46 Community Planning Feedbacks / Opportunities / Linkages / Actions.
- 63 Linkages / Engagements regarding Community Planning.
- 4 Meetings: MUDC Community Planning.



## Support for Isolated Rural People:

- **183 COSTA Member Groups.**
- **7 'Open Door Days' (26 groups / 41 attendees).**
- **14 Good Practice Checklists** (Tackling Rural Poverty & Social Isolation).
- **14 Checklist Follow-ups to Groups' needs.**
- **116 Groups supported / mentored on Capacity Building.**
- **55 Groups supported with Funding Applications.**
- **81 Groups supported / mentored on Governance.**
- **63 New Database Entries / Updates.**
- **12 Governance Workshops with 55 participants:** 'A Quick Guide to GDPR', 'Basic Financial Management', 'Charity Registration & Annual Returns' 'Update & Changes to UK Company Law' 'Funding Information & Readiness'.
- **147 Interagency Engagements:** MU Community Navigator, MU Coronavirus Support Forum, SHSC Trust Social Care Hub, Tackling Rural Poverty & Social Isolation (TRPSI) Promotions / Signpostings / Referrals: MULN, DAERA, ARTS, CYPSP, Agewell MU, Health Alliance, CDM Community Transport, Rural Support, SUSE+ / DEL / FarmSAFE, Libraries NI, Farm Family Health Checks, NIVCA, RCN, RNNI, Rural Action, JVCS Forum etc.
- **22 Joint Voluntary Community Sector Forum Meetings.**
- **1 Joint Voluntary Community Sector Forum Workshop 'Stocktake & Forward Planning Session': 04/06/2023.**



## 2. Support for the Sustainability of Rural Villages

- **2 Rural Villages Supported.**
- **2 Village Plans Reviewed.**
- **21 Village Plan Meetings:** 45 Groups / 90 attendees.
- **2 Good Practice Visits:** Brantry BARD and Bawn Hall (35 attendees) 15/09/2023.
- **1 Village Test & Learn Area:** Aughnacloy Village.
- **DAERA Rural Micro Capital Grant Scheme 2022: 12 Groups supported** to submit Claims
- **3 Meetings:** DAERA Rural Micro Capital Grant Scheme 2022.



### 3. Governance & Sustainability

- **1 RCDSS Event (50 attendees) with DAERA Director of Rural Affairs: 27/06/2023** with 2 COSTA Presentations: Richard Knox (Clonaneese Historical Society & Trevor Lockhart Bawn Development Association).
- **1 Programme of Evaluation** in place for Regional LRCOSS and **1 Workshop 18/07/2023**.
- **6 RCDSS Regional Case Studies**.
- 24 DAERA / LRCOSS / LRSNs Contract Meetings.
- 4 LRCOSS Monitoring Reports / 4 Audit Certificates.
- 4 LRCOSS / DAERA Financial & Monitoring Checks.
- 1 Company House Annual Return: March 2024.
- 1 Charity Commission NI Annual Return: December 2023.
- 5 COSTA Board Meetings.
- **1 COSTA Annual General Meeting (22/6/2023) 26 attendees**.
- **1 COSTA Board Training Session 15/12/2023 (7 attendees)**.



### COSTA Project Partnerships & Representation 2023 / 2024

- **Joint Voluntary Community Sector Forum.**
- **Charity Commission NI Stakeholder Forum.**
- **Mid Ulster District Community Plan - VCS Member / Clogher Valley DEA / Education & Skills Thematic Working Group.**
- **Mid Ulster LAPN – Local Anti-Poverty Network.**
- **Mid Ulster Seniors Network (MUSN).**
- **Mid Ulster Loneliness Network (MULN).**
- **Age Friendly Mid-Ulster Alliance.**
- **Agewell Mid-Ulster.**
- **Community Sector Training - Management Group.**
- **People & Place Review (Rural Advisory Group).**
- **MUD Council Fair Trade Steering Group (Chair).**
- **NI Ambulance Service Partner Voice Forum.**
- **ENCOMPASS Programme - Engagement Council Panel**
- **Agewell Mid-Ulster Partnership.**
- **CYPSP - Children & Young People Strategic Partnership Locality Group (Armagh & Dungannon) & Chairperson.**
- **RCDSS / Local Rural Support Networks Managers Forum.**
- **Southern Area Outcomes Group (A&D Rep).**
- **Shared Neighbourhood Advisory Group (Dungannon).**
- **Collaboration Test & Learn Pilot Project (Aughnacloy).**
- **Linking Generations NI**
- **Clogher Valley Community Hub (Peace +).**

On 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023, the 7 Rural Support Networks (COSTA, CWSAN, TADA, OFRA, CDRCN, NACN and RAPID) first met with **Teresa O’Neill the new DAERA Director for Rural Affairs** at CAFRE Greenmount College in Antrim. This was the very first opportunity for the Networks and the new Director of Rural Affairs to meet and get acquainted with each other and our roles. The meeting was highly successful and gave the new Director a great insight into the background of the Rural Community Development Support Service (RCDSS) and also the very wide breadth of Projects and work carried out by all the Rural Support Networks. At the end of the meeting it was agreed that the Networks would organise an event in June to present, in more detail, the work of the Networks but also include direct input from the 7 Networks’ Board Members and representatives from a wide range of member and community groups throughout the region.

**On Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2023**, the 7 Rural Support Networks met again with Teresa O’Neill, DAERA Director for Rural Affairs, at Oxford Island Discovery Centre. This was a great opportunity to present and encourage a 2-way round table discussion on a wide variety of topics. Network Board Members, Staff and Member Groups delivered presentations on:

- ✓ Overview of the RCDSS Contract
- ✓ Capacity Building Support
- ✓ DAERA Rural Micro Capital Grant Scheme (RMCGS)
- ✓ Marginalised Minority Communities (MMC)
- ✓ Support given to Rural Community Groups



Around **50 people attended** the event in total and this provided a very valuable opportunity for all to hear about DAERA’s plans post-Brexit and to meet face-to-face following nearly 2 years of Pandemic restrictions.

**Sincere thanks go to Richard Knox (COSTA Chairperson) and Trevor Lockhart (COSTA Company Secretary) for giving 2 excellent presentations on local PUL Projects and the role of COSTA and the Marginalised Minority Communities project within the RCDSS infrastructure.**

## Cost of Living Crisis – Tough Times, Smart Solutions



COSTA attended the event run by NICVA and hosted by Omagh Forum in Omagh Community Hub on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

This was a valuable opportunity for the sector to come up with our solutions to the issues we face in the region.

It was also one of the first few events for the very recently appointed NICVA CEO Celine McStravick to meet with and engage with communities on issues affecting people in the West.

**Global Horizon Skills** **\*\* Free First Aid Kit \*\*** **for Attendees** **cafre** College of Agriculture, Food & Rural Enterprise

**\*FREE\***

**Farm Family First Aid Awareness Training**

**Thursday 24th August 7.00 - 9.30**

President Grant's Homestead, 45 Dergenagh Road, Dungannon, BT70 ITW



**To book your place:**  
**Phone: Lorraine 028 85556880**  
**Email: info.costa@btconnect.com**

Part of the Farm Business Improvement Scheme in the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 and funded by the European Agricultural and Rural Development

Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs European Union rural Development Programme

## First Aid Awareness Training & Free First Aid Kits

On **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> August 2023**, 17 local people from a wide range of voluntary and community organisations successfully completed a First Aid Awareness course facilitated by Global Horizon Skills and funded by Cafre under DAERA. The training was provided to support Health and Safety and was **open to Farmers, Fam Families and Farm Employees**. We hope to run this course again if funding continues to support the initiative.

**All 17 participants were successful and each received a First Aid Awareness Certificate and a free First Aid Kit.**

## Study Visits in Aughnacloy to Branry BARD & Bawn Hall

On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2023 COSTA and CWSAN teamed up to provide a **Good Practice Study Visit for the Mid Ulster area** involving two very local Community organisations from both sides of the traditional political and cultural divide. The Study Visit had two excellent examples of highly successful Groups in the Aughnacloy area: **Branry BARD (Branry Area Rural Development)** and **Bawn Development Association**. The Visits were excellent and provided very warm welcomes and hospitality. **Over 35 people attended the visits in total**. COSTA and CWSAN sincerely thank both groups for kindly hosting the event and all the volunteers for their hard work in making the event so enjoyable and educational.

***"What an inspirational day!"***  
***"Thank you to the organisers and hosts."***

**CWSAN** Rural Support Network **Reserve your place Now!** **COSTA** Community Organisations of South Ulster Area

**'A Journey towards Community Sustainability Making things better in our community'**

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2023**  
**10:00am - 1:00pm**  
**@ Branry BARD followed by Bawn Development Association**  
**Free Refreshments & Hot Lunch included**

An opportunity for your community organisation to meet, see and hear from 2 successful local community groups based in the Aughnacloy area. What was their journey, what assistance did they get, what were the challenges met and where did they get the funding from?

A short presentation with Q&A session along with a tour of two local community halls/facilities. This will be your opportunity to learn from those who have ensured that their community groups are making things better for their own communities and what their journey has been to date. Learn what and how they are planning for the future.

Organized by CWSAN & COSTA - Please register by emailing Lorraine on: [info.costa@btconnect.com](mailto:info.costa@btconnect.com) Tel: 028 8555 6880.

OR email Marguerite on: [info@cwsan.org](mailto:info@cwsan.org) Tel. 028 8773 8845. Please indicate any Food allergies in your correspondence.

Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs Stability at the heart of strong working relationships Department of Health Mid Ulster



## COSTA Open Door Days – Celebrating 12 years!

For over 12 years now COSTA has been running regular ‘Open Door Days’ throughout each year to enable greater access of groups to our services and support. The following areas of support are the most popular provided:

- ✓ **Charity Registration & Annual Returns**
- ✓ **‘Grant Tracker’ Funding Information Searches**
- ✓ **Assistance with Funding Applications**
- ✓ **Governance Support**
- ✓ **Signposting & Information**
- ✓ **Good Practice Checklists & Action Plans**

Generally these have been very well attended. **From 1 April 2012 – 31 March 2024 COSTA has held 48 ‘Open Door Days’ with 228 groups / 300 attendees.**

**Over the past year, between 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024: COSTA has held 7 ‘Open Door Days’ with 26 groups / 41 attendees:** 5/5/2023, 7/6/2023, 19/10/2023, 31/10/2023, 16/11/2023, 24/11/2023, 22/03/2024.

Numerous more groups and individuals have regularly dropped in to the COSTA Office regularly throughout the year. **We maintain the COSTA Community Network Office for the benefit of the community.**

## Rural Village Renewal Plans - Clogher

Clogher Village Plan Review began on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023. CWSAN and COSTA joined forces to hold a Consultation event in Clogher Courthouse for groups in Clogher and the surrounding area. The event was attended by 30 people from over 15 different Groups and organisations, including MUD Council, and aimed to start the first stage in reviewing the Clogher Rural Village Plan. Representatives from every type of community organisation attended and contributed in great detail to what people in the area felt needed to be done to help rejuvenate Clogher Village and surrounds.

A very comprehensive review and update of the background statistics, strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats and the action plan itself were facilitated by Seamus Donnelly (CWSAN) and Loraine Griffin (COSTA). A draft of the new plan was circulated round the interested parties. The reviewed Village Plan is a live working document and will be updated and revised again in future continuously as necessary.



On 1<sup>st</sup> June 2023 representatives met again to see the initial draft of a revised plan, and as a direct result of that meeting the participants were interested in progressing forward:

- ✓ Taking forward a wide range of actions identified in the Village Plan.
- ✓ The Village Historian hosted a Village Walk About to identify and prioritise actions / next steps.
- ✓ **A total of 9 Meetings were held during from 15 March 2023 to beyond February 2024 with huge local interest.**

- ✓ Consultation was extended out to local businesses, other interested parties, groups and organisations.
- ✓ **A Clogher Village Group was formally set-up and constituted on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2023.**
- ✓ MUDC are keen to meet the Village Groups and identify funds to take forward identified actions.

This initiative also links in with a wider £7m Peace+ Project re-developing the old Clogher Workhouse and surrounding site led by Early Years - with COSTA as an Associate Partner. Village Plans are live documents and will keep adapting and evolving as time goes on.

Thank you very much to Clogher Old Market Yard Thank you Richard Mulligan and all at the Clogher Old Market Yard House Committee for presenting COSTA Rural Support Network with this beautiful cake made for us at our AGM hosted by the group on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2023.



Richard Mulligan was also key in assisting COSTA and CWSAN with getting the Clogher Village Plan up and running.

**CWSAN and COSTA will be working with all Villages throughout Mid Ulster that are interested in reviewing their plan - so contact us at any time.**

## Clogher Valley Community Hub & Childcare Centre of Excellence



As an Associate Partner, COSTA strongly and actively supports an Early Years application to the new PEACE+ fund to redevelop the Old Clogher Workhouse in a new shared space for people from the Clogher Valley area valued at nearly £7m.

Although still only in the early stages of the application process, COSTA has been generating strong publicity and assisting groups to submit letters of support to facilitate the bid for funding.

COSTA will play an active role in assisting the facilitation of the project's implementation and add value to the project through close association and support of good governance, information sharing and networking. This Project also will be huge part of the Clogher Village Renewal Plan which COSTA and CWSAN play a key role in facilitating.

COSTA supports the proposed project which will develop new rural village and community services including:

- ✓ A new heritage centre telling the story of the Clogher workhouse and how it served the area from the 1800s onwards.
- ✓ A schools engagement officer will work with all schools to arrange managed visits to the new centre.
- ✓ A community skills centre, providing opportunities for individuals and groups to avail of up-skilling opportunities, work experience



opportunities, group meetings and cross community collaboration activities.

- ✓ A new shared play area for children from 5-16 years old including soft play and a high-rise clip and climb.
- ✓ Preschool and day-care provision including Sure Start provision.
- ✓ Managed service working facilities for remote workers with high-speed broadband and office-based solutions.
- ✓ Space for intergenerational engagement and activity.

***“COSTA’s inclusion as an associate partner would greatly strengthen our application given your Networks extensive remit and natural networking ability throughout the area”.***

(Mark Feeney – Clogher Valley Community Hub Project Manager).

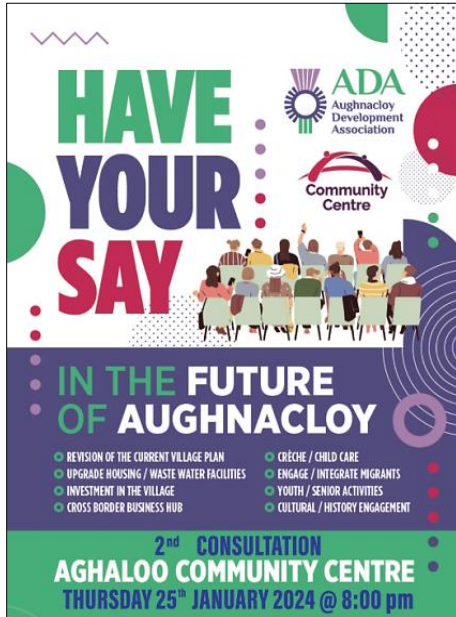
Shared spaces are vitally important for the whole community and especially so in rural areas with reduced access to services and opportunities. They provide a means to encourage cross-community interaction, build peace and reconciliation, and provide a neutral safe accessible space whereby the voluntary and community sector can deliver much-needed services to communities that promote health and wellbeing throughout society.

We believe that this project is of huge benefit not only to the Clogher Valley but for the Dungannon and surrounding areas as a whole. The project will promote excellent community facilities for the area and increase cross-border interaction. We hope that this exciting and transformative vision for the Clogher Valley becomes a reality and the hard work continues on by Clogher Valley Early Years.



## Rural Village Renewal Plans - Aughnacloy

Aughnacloy began their Village Plan Review process from 2020 onwards and started by doing research into the area. Two of the local large Network organisations in the village: **Aghaloo Community Centre and Aughnacloy Development Association** joined forces to increase collaboration and maximise benefit for the area.



COSTA was asked by John Ward, and Stephen Salley Chairpersons of Aghaloo Community Centre and the Development Association respectively to be part of the **Aughnacloy Finance Advisory Board**. The FAB first met on 8 June 2020 and was set up to help attract-in funding towards joint actions identified in the local Village Plan. **Over 6 meetings of the FAB were held up to March 2024.**

Again, CWSAN and COSTA joined forces to assist the local community and throughout 2023 and 2024 **over 6 additional meetings were held in Aghaloo Community Centre involving a wide mix of different groups and interests**. Again this work was hugely successful and a Village Plan was drafted which identified several projects which have already attracted in funding by local groups totalling over £35,000 plus 5 new volunteers by early 2024 alone.

Both lead groups are very interested in exploring further joint working, gaining efficiencies through close joint-working, setting up new groups and drawing up plans to develop several different sites in the village for community benefit. The work continues on.

**In a very interesting development, Aughnacloy was chosen by the Department for Communities (lead partner) to be one of the first two areas to pilot the NI Civil Service Test & Learn Collaboration initiative. This enabled further reach into direct links with several NI Government departments.**



**Collaboration Test & Learn Pilot (Aughnacloy)**

Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS) Government Departments are delivering Test and Learn Pilots in 2023/2024, aimed at exploring the benefits of a place-based approach to improve societal outcomes through improved collaboration across Departments and external delivery partners.

Following on from the recent themes within 'New Decade, New Approach', the draft 'Programme for Government' and 'People, Planet, Prosperity – the Missions', such as, 'tackling disadvantage', 'transformation of public services' and 'green growth', there is currently further work being undertaken in creating the **NICS Renewal framework. The mission statement for NICS renewal is to enable, empower and support civil servants to effectively deliver the work of government by:**

- Applying the Collaboration Frameworks and Evaluation Framework with consistency across pilot areas;
- Bringing cross-sector and cross-departmental leadership together to agree priority outcomes in each area;
- **Reducing the administrative burden on community and voluntary sector partners;**




- Providing clear communication from leadership on the ability to pool funds; and
- Identifying individuals within each geography who have a deep, working knowledge of the area to help drive Test and Learn activities.

Through the pandemic and the more recent cost-of-living crisis, the NICS recognised the importance of resilience and prioritising wellbeing. **Test and Learn will explore how sharing of plans, data, knowledge, resources and finances can deliver more effective and resilient public services for our communities.**

**A total of 5 meetings (2 Public Meetings and 3 smaller focus group meetings) were held for Aughnacloy Village on as of 16 May 2024.**

**The meetings allowed the community to air their views and we hope that some real good can come out of this pilot that should highlight the issues rural communities face in accessing services, navigating government organisations and the funding. *We hope this pilot will bring real and lasting positive change.***

## The Case for Change



The opening section of the document is a reminder of the need for transformation, the origin of this work and the ongoing efforts to tackle some of the systemic barriers at the local level, including where Test and Learn can contribute to building momentum toward real change.

<div style="background-color: #D9E1F2; padding: 5px;"> <h3 style="margin: 0;">Background</h3> <p style="font-size: 0.9em; margin: 5px 0;">Test and Learn was created in order to address feedback from Community and Strategic Partners that we need to work better internally and externally and to identify barriers to collaboration.</p> </div>	<div style="background-color: #E6E6FA; padding: 5px;"> <h3 style="margin: 0;">Known systemic barriers to collaboration across government</h3> <p style="font-size: 0.9em; margin: 5px 0;">The Test and Learn Pilots have explored ways to embed collaborative practices and help us to validate these barriers (some examples below) and capture new ones, in specific geographic areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>continued siloed departmental working;</li> <li>widespread bureaucratic processes;</li> <li>limited information and data sharing, for example issues relating to accessing funding data within areas.</li> </ul> </div>
<div style="background-color: #FFC0CB; padding: 5px;"> <h3 style="margin: 0;">Building the case for change</h3> <p style="font-size: 0.9em; margin: 5px 0;">Our Report will collate noteworthy initiatives and acknowledge programmes that have gone before that articulate the growing case for change.</p> </div>	<div style="background-color: #FFDAB9; padding: 5px;"> <h3 style="margin: 0;">Test and Learn: Contributing to the Case</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The initiative underpinned by the Collaboration Strategic Framework aims to assess the potential for more joined-up working and outcomes.</li> <li>Capturing early evidence for how this might support the delivery of better outcomes for our society.</li> </ul> </div>



## Rural Support Networks

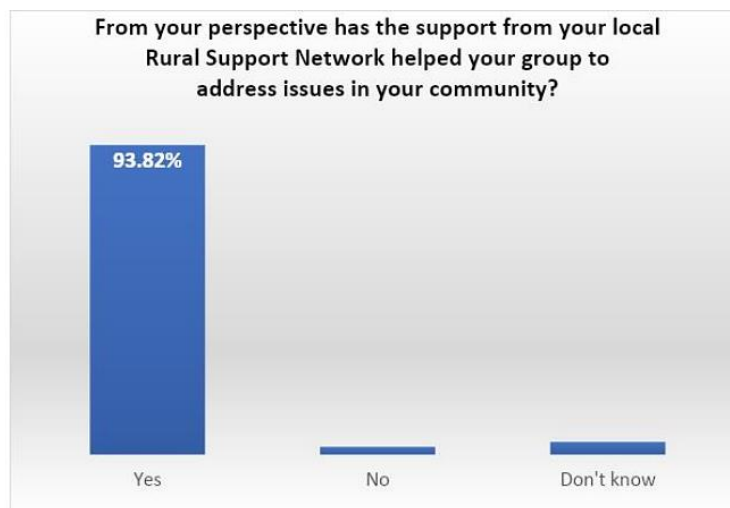
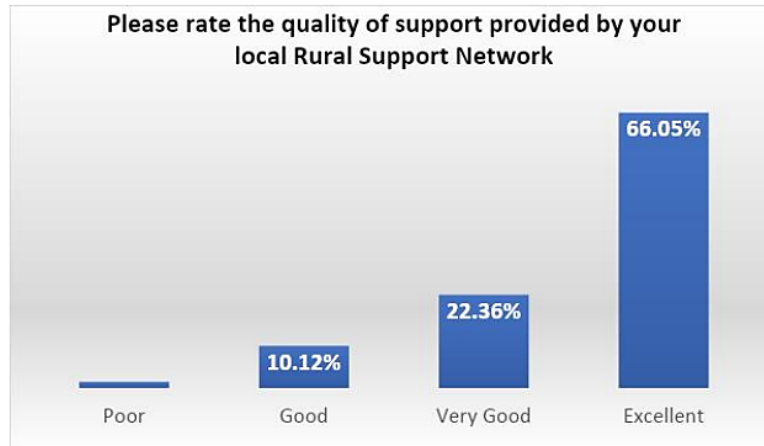
### Independent Evaluation

### 2021-2023 Timeframe

An Independent Evaluation was carried out on the effectiveness of the Rural Support Networks and Rural Community Development Support Service. It was directly informed by beneficiaries of the RCDSS via electronic survey which was widely circulated across the **Rural Support Network memberships in November 2023.**

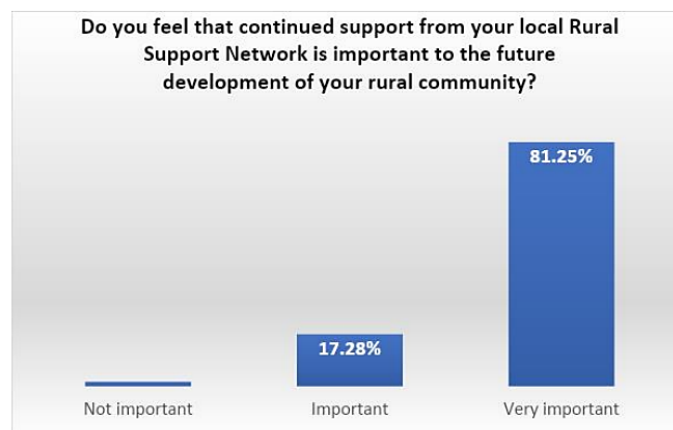
**1,095 responses** were returned with **feedback received across all seven RSN catchment areas**, ensuring geographical balance across rural NI. Feedback via the beneficiary survey from 1,095 rural groups, organisations and communities represents a 38% return and therefore can be considered statistically significant. Key findings from the user consultation are as follows:

The quality of the RSN support is illustrated by the chart below and further confirms the role which RSNs are performing in rural communities across NI:



### Sustaining Rural Communities

Building capacity to sustain our rural communities is at the heart of the rural community development process. Sustainability of rural communities requires empowered, energised rural dwellers and a vibrant community infrastructure which recognises and supports its volunteer base. Building capacity to both take forward projects and sustain the work of groups themselves will determine the future of our communities, with over 80% of member groups being of the view that continued support is very important for continued development.



## Joint Voluntary Community Sector Forum (JVCS Forum)

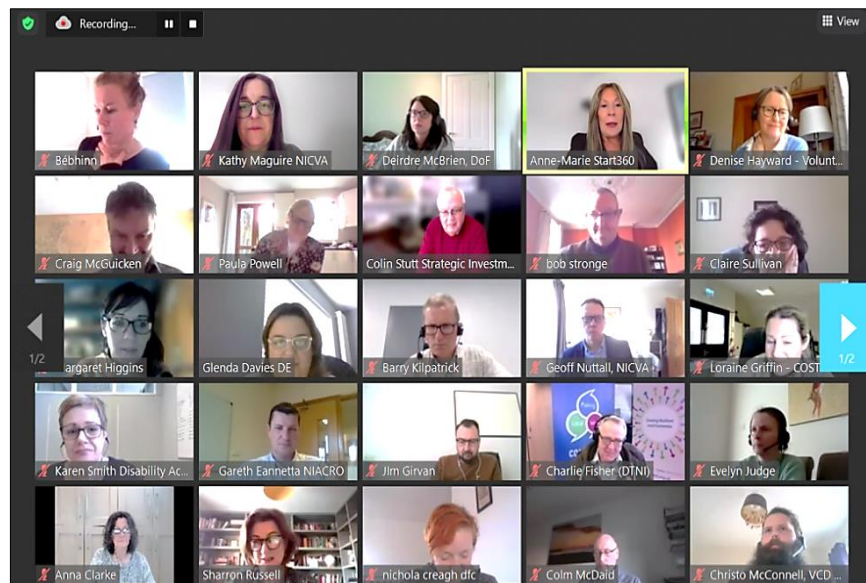
For the last 7 years, it has been an absolute privilege for COSTA to be a member of the Joint VCS Forum.

The Joint Forum between the Government and the Voluntary and Community Sector NI commonly known as the Joint Forum is made up of representatives from central and local government (Public Sector Group) and the voluntary and community sector (Voluntary and Community Sector Panel) in Northern Ireland. It was established in October 1998 with the purpose of promoting regular dialogue between the voluntary and community sector and Government departments. It facilitates an open discussion about the relationship between the two sectors. The Joint Forum is supported by NICVA and the Voluntary and Community Division in the Department for Communities (DfC).

The Joint Forum Voluntary and Community Sector Panel (VCS Panel) is made up of 15 representatives from across the voluntary and community sector in Northern Ireland.

Since April 2017 and also now again from April 2020 (2nd and final term) COSTA was successfully nominated to the Joint Voluntary Community Sector Forum. The Forum meets with all the NI Department heads on a quarterly basis to lobby for the Sector. The Joint Forum is comprised of representatives from across government and the voluntary and community sector. It facilitates an open discussion about the relationship between these two sectors. Current members of the panel are from the following organisations:

Advice NI  
COSTA Rural Support Network  
Clanrye Group  
Volunteer Now  
Womens Resource & Development Agency  
Supporting Communities  
Development Trusts NI  
NIACRO  
Community Foundation for NI  
Human Rights Consortium  
Disability Action NI  
Prospect Community  
British Red Cross  
Book Trust NI  
Community Transport Assoc NI



The Voluntary and Community panel meets with the membership from government departments three times per year as the Joint Forum to facilitate regular dialogue between the voluntary and community sector and government, and to support effective collaboration between the two.

As a key rural representative from west of the Bann, COSTA has attended 22+ meetings this year to date including a Re-structuring Workshop involving all members. COSTA sits on the Funding & Relationships Task and Finish Working Group which meets monthly and is currently undertaking preparatory work on the development of recommendations to inform creation of a set of Fair Funding Principles that will address key issues in relation to government funding practices and approaches to the VCSE sector. This includes reviewing best practice both locally and nationally. Other important issues currently being tackled by the Forum include: preparing for a new Political Mandate, major restructuring of the Joint Forum, identifying strategic and work actions ahead and refreshing 'The Compact' between Government and the Third Sector.

COSTA is has been involved in the ‘Delivering Outcomes Together’ and the ‘Addressing Bureaucracy and Funding, Commissioning & Procurement’ Task & Finish Work Groups. There have been several meetings since September 2021 plus a Workshop for Modernising the Forum with a new focus under ‘A Manifesto for Change’ and ‘No going back to the old ways of working’. We hope that given the examples set by Covid-19 and what can be done in an emergency situation that positive progress can be made for the future. **One of the key pieces of ongoing strategic work involves refreshing “The Compact” between Government and the Voluntary / Community Sector and this is now reaching an advanced stage with a first draft now being considered.**

Regular updates are being regularly distributed very widely via the COSTA Newsletters and you can read more about the Joint Forum [here](#).

Unfortunately COSTA’s term is now coming to an end but we will seek to try to secure a place for a further Rural Support Network representative on the Joint Forum to ensure the good work carries on and the rural voice remains strong.

You can find out more about the Joint Forum here: <https://bit.ly/3gKSQWy>



### Mid Ulster Loneliness Network (MULN)

COSTA has been an active member of MULN since it was first set-up in August 2020 due to unique community needs arising out of the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Over 25 local member organisations have come together to share resources and expertise in actively delivering local initiatives to tackle loneliness, promote positive health and wellbeing and help local communities deal with Cost of Living and Post-Pandemic issues. MULN meets quarterly and COSTA has been very actively involved in several MULN sub-groups including *Chatty Benches*, *Chatty Cafes*, *Warm & Chatty Places* and is a *Loneliness Champion*.

Increasingly, different Networks and Fora have been working more closely together to break down barriers, duplication, reduce meetings, share ever dwindling resources, fully utilise skills, experience and maximise the public benefit per every £1 spent.

COSTA has actively promoted the MUDC Age Friendly Survey, Age Friendly Week (12<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> June 2023) by featuring information, services, events and opportunities for Older people in our Newsletters. **The MUDC Age Friendly Strategy is also now a key part of the Community Plan for Mid Ulster.**

## COSTA Rural Warm & Chatty Place & Chatty Bench

**COSTA continues to offer a Warm & Chatty venue at our community office in President Grant’s Homestead.**

Mid Ulster District Council has been working with local partners via Mid Ulster Loneliness Network – of which COSTA is a very active member - to promote a network of places where local residents can come together in a warm welcoming environment, somewhere where they can connect with others or simply read a newspaper and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee.



To see the full list of venues provided by the public, private and voluntary/community sectors across Mid Ulster District please follow the link: <https://www.midulstercouncil.org/welcomingplaces>

COSTA is a Rural Warm & Chatty Place on Fridays between 10:00am to 4:00pm. Book & call into President Grants Homestead if you are in the area. Thank you to Mid Ulster Loneliness Network (MULN) for kindly funding this initiative.

COSTA has been lucky to get its own Chatty Bench located at President Grant’s Homestead which can be used by the public and visitors to the Network when visiting the site. This helps to tie-in with the existing tourist facilities at President Grants. There are currently over 15 Chatty Benches located throughout MUD Council area.

## MULN Mid Ulster Celebration Event & Launch of Age Friendly MU Strategy & Action Plan

On 29<sup>th</sup> September 2023, a major Information and Networking Event was held in the Burnavon in Cookstown. The event was attended by over 150 people plus numerous different agencies, Voluntary / Community Sector organisations and Public Services. The event marked the occasion of the Official Launch of Age Friendly Mid Ulster which aims to support Older People living in MU District Council area. The event had contributions from MUD Council, MU Loneliness Network, SHSC Trust, and the Take 5 Steps to Wellbeing initiative.



## MULN Loneliness Champion Award

COSTA has continued the project on ever since then and on **Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2023** at a major Event organised by MULN for over 120 Older People in Mid Ulster, COSTA was one of several recipients of a **MULN Loneliness Champion Award in recognition of the work carried out to date aimed at tackling isolation.**



## Age Friendly – Mid Ulster

COSTA has been very actively involved in and in promoting the Age Friendly Mid Ulster Alliance from its consultation phase in early 2022 and ever since its inaugural meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023 in MUD Council Offices.

A very extensive community consultation took place to identify the key priorities for Older People throughout the district over several months in 2022. At the first multi-agency meeting, the **Age Friendly Strategic Plan 2023-2026** was reviewed and the Action Leads and Partners – which include COSTA – were identified. On 14<sup>th</sup> June 2023 a further Workshop was held in MUDC Offices in Magherafelt to look at how the Age Friendly Strategy will be managed and measured. COSTA was assigned to the Communications Key Performance Indicator (KPI) Group.

COSTA has actively promoted the MUDC Age Friendly Survey, Age Friendly Week (12<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> June 2023) throughout by featuring information, services, events and opportunities for Older people in our Newsletters. COSTA is a named organisation within the **MUDC Age Friendly Strategy which is now a key part of the Community Plan for Mid Ulster.**

**Agewell Mid Ulster, Mid Ulster Seniors Network and the Mid Ulster Loneliness Network - all of which COSTA actively sits on - are also key community partners working alongside MUD Council, statutory agencies and community organisations to create a better community and outcomes for local Older People.**

## Children & Young People Strategic Partnership (CYPSP)



Since 2022, COSTA was delighted to take up the position of Chairing the Armagh & Dungannon CYPSP. Excellent work is ongoing, for example, actions aimed at addressing the legacy of the Pandemic and the Cost of Living Crisis and what can be done to help. Directly linked to the CYPSP is the **Southern Area Outcomes Group** which COSTA also participates in as a CYPSP Chair. This brings together the 6 CYPSPs of Armagh, Dungannon, Craigavon, Banbridge, South Armagh and Newry & Mourne who work together strategically on a bi-monthly basis to pro-actively tackle issues identified under a single Action Plan 2021 – 2024 (now being renewed to 2027). **Link to a short video of the #CanWeTalk Event held on 25/10/2022 showcasing the value of CYPSP: [Can We Talk: 25th October 2022 - YouTube](#)**

**Link to the CYPSP Mid Ulster Directory of Services: [Can-We-Talk-Support-Services-Resource-Final.pdf \(hscni.net\)](#)**

## CYPSP School Uniform Toolkit

As ever, the CYPSP has brought together a wide range of local Statutory and Voluntary / Community organisations to deliver a localised Action Plan designed to improve outcomes for Children & Young People in the Southern Trust area. Among many great achievements to date

has included a School Uniform Recycling Toolkit that can be used by schools in any area to encourage re-use of a wide variety of school uniforms, PE kits, Formal Wear and even books, stationery and all manner of equipment.



**SCAN QR CODE FOR  
INSTANT ACCESS TO THE  
SCHOOL UNIFORM  
RECYCLING INITIATIVE  
RESOURCE HUB**

This Toolkit was designed and written by representatives of the Dungannon and Mid Ulster Locality Planning Group: Darren Curtis and Joanne Paterson (CYPSP), Emma McGeehan (MUDC), Loraine Griffin (COSTA), Joanne Dougan (STEP), Nichola Simpson (Causeway & MU Women’s Aid) and Mary Tennyson (GOLD Sure Start, Cookstown).

Schools increasingly are warming to the idea of recycling uniforms, formal wear, sports items, stationery and equipment. In one school event alone over 232 items were exchanged (99% of all items received were re-distributed) with the Toolkit being a vital guiding resource.

In 2023, 1,254 items were re-distributed equating to £8,161.55 in value being saved. Items exchanged included stationery, sports equipment as well as all types of uniform clothing and sportswear.

The Toolkit can be used by any organisation in addition to all types of school and to date Sports Clubs and Churches have also benefitted. To date 60 schools have expressed an interest in using the Toolkit – so watch this space!

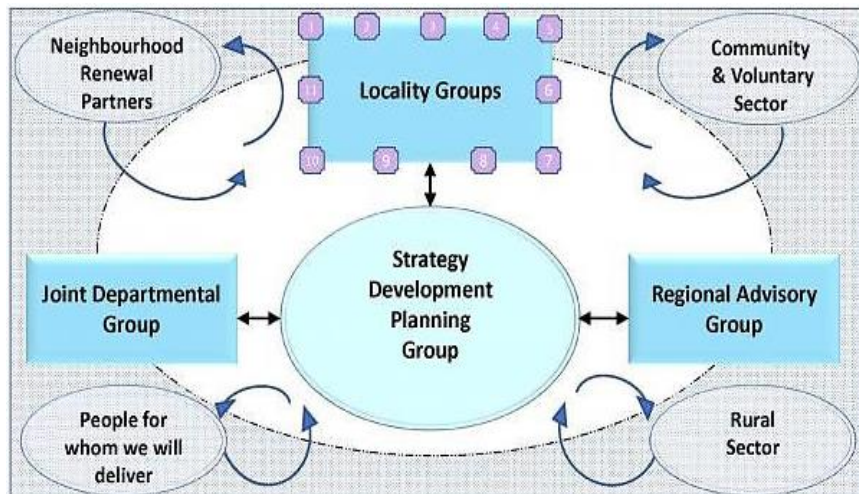
For further information, contact Darren Curtis, CYPSP Officer (Armagh & Dungannon) Area [darren@ci-ni.org.uk](mailto:darren@ci-ni.org.uk) or Emma McElhone, CYPSP Officer (MU Area) [Emma.McElhone@northerntrust.hscni.net](mailto:Emma.McElhone@northerntrust.hscni.net)



In February 2020, Minister Harghey publically committed to a comprehensive and strategic review of the current **People and Place ‘Neighbourhood Renewal’ Strategy** to improve how the Department of Communities (DfC) addresses the objective need of a place-based approach to tackling deprivation.

**‘People and Place – A Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal’** was launched in June 2003. It was aimed at targeting those urban communities in Northern Ireland suffering the highest levels of deprivation by bringing together the work of all Government Departments in partnership with local people to tackle disadvantage.

The co-design process began with the establishment of 11 Locality Co-Design Groups (one per Council area) with the purpose of supporting and informing the development of a successor Strategy and associated implementation plan. The Group has a key role contributing relevant expertise both professional and



lived experience and involve a range of stakeholders including representatives drawn from the: Neighbourhood Renewal structures, Wider Voluntary & Community Sector membership, Statutory membership i.e. Education Authority, Health Trusts, NIHE and Council officials.

**All Rural Support Networks have been in the Locality Co-Design Groups with Loraine Griffin (COSTA) on the Regional Advisory Group and Conor Corr (CWSAN) and Philip O’Kane (RAPID) on the Strategy Development Planning Group.**

The purpose of the Regional Advisory Group is to offer a strategic view throughout the review and strategy development process and bring forward ideas that might not necessarily be identified by on-ground practitioners.

The RAG comprises of approximately 10 core advisors including those who have knowledge of communities facing deprivation including those with the requisite expert, academic and experiential skill sets.

RAG members will also aid exploration on wider thinking on place-based planning with a focus on addressing poverty and disadvantage in both urban and rural areas and across interest groups. This includes advice on what works well within some wider place based and community renewal solutions adopted by other jurisdictions.

**The Rural Support Networks were key to ensuring the local rural voice was heard in a number of grass-roots Special Interest Group Engagement Sessions. The consultants found this input to be vital, very moving and in many cases totally transformational for their view on the importance of the voluntary / community sector in the region, and what small groups of volunteers do actually achieve for wider society. COSTA has regularly attended meetings (over 10 to date), consultations and Locality Group Sessions on a Council and regional level.**

For more information go to: [People and Place Review | Department for Communities \(communities-ni.gov.uk\)](http://communities-ni.gov.uk)

## Rural CD Support Service (RCDSS) via COSTA Local Rural Support Network



**COSTA believes a local presence in the centre of the former Council area of Dungannon & South Tyrone is very important for our community particularly given the fact that the former Dungannon Borough area alone stretches for nearly 40 miles. Despite a future that appears to remain new and very uncertain we remain very positive and pro-active along the great EU Frontier as *the Local Rural Support Network*.**



**To keep fully up-to-date with the latest Newsletters, Grants, Guidance, Information and Events go to our Website:**  
[www.costaruralsupportnetwork.org](http://www.costaruralsupportnetwork.org)

**For all the very latest news and updates Follow our FaceBook Pages important information posted daily:**

**Costa Costa** <https://www.facebook.com/costa.network/>



Costa Costa  
@costa\_network



COSTA Community  
Organisations of  
South Tyrone &  
Areas

**COSTA Community Organisations of South Tyrone & Areas**  
<https://www.facebook.com/COSTA-Community-Organisations-of-South-Tyrone-Areas-595993680543963/>



COSTA delivers the  
**Local Rural Community Development  
Support Service (LRCDSS)**

**In the Dungannon & South Tyrone area of  
Mid Ulster District Council**

(sub-contracted under CWSAN as part of the  
7 providers of the Local Rural CDSS) - funded by the  
**Department of Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs (DAERA)  
Tackling Rural Poverty & Social Isolation Programme (TRPSI).**



COSTA is funded by  
**Department of Agriculture, Environment & Affairs (DAERA)  
Mid Ulster District Council  
Mid Ulster Loneliness Network**



**Registered Company in Northern Ireland No: NI 42832  
Charity Registration Number: NIC 101598**

**COSTA**  
**President Grant's Homestead, 45 Dergenagh Road, Dungannon, Co. Tyrone, BT70 1TW**  
**Tel: 028 855 56880 Email: [info.costa@btconnect.com](mailto:info.costa@btconnect.com)**  
**Web: [www.costaruralsupportnetwork.org](http://www.costaruralsupportnetwork.org)**