

Marie Ward
Chief Executive



Comhairle Ceantair
**an Iúir, Mhúrn
agus an Dúin**
**Newry, Mourne
and Down**
District Council

12 August 2020

Dear All,

Now that the Community Hub food parcel deliveries are coming to an end, I wanted to take this opportunity to express sincere thanks to the Community and Voluntary sector, sporting bodies and individual members of the public who rose to the challenge of COVID-19. The overwhelming support that Newry, Mourne and Down District Council received when faced with the monumental task of supporting our most vulnerable members of society was truly inspiring.

Never in our lifetime have we had to deal with a crisis that required such a seismic shift to how we work, live and socialise, alongside the anxiety of dealing with an invisible threat. While we were being told to stay at home to stay safe, we had an enormous number of individuals and groups such as yourselves who were driven by the need to help their most vulnerable neighbours. This, I feel, speaks volumes to the generous community spirit that typifies Newry, Mourne and Down.

To get an idea of the challenges we faced; during the 17 weeks of shielding a total of 18,407 food boxes were delivered with the assistance of 144 organisations and individuals throughout the Newry, Mourne and Down District area. At its peak, 1902 food boxes were delivered to our most vulnerable residents in one week.

Not only were food parcels being delivered but you were ensuring that our most vulnerable residents were receiving medical supplies, social connection and much more.

As our new normal settles in and restrictions are eased, we hope you can enjoy summer safe in the knowledge that we have the capacity to work together and face any new challenges in the coming months with confidence.

My sincere gratitude to you for the support you have provided in this time of crisis and for all you have done to ensure our most vulnerable residents were kept safe and connected.

Yours sincerely

Marie Ward
Chief Executive

ml/po

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Ag freastal ar an Dún
agus Ard Mhacha Theas
Serving Down
and South Armagh