Silent Cuts at the Social Enterprise NI Awards

How Silent Cuts started

Silent Cuts began after one person found a haircut overwhelming.

They did not want to go back.

Mainstay DRP wanted to make haircuts easier and more comfortable.

What Silent Cuts is

Silent Cuts is a sensory-friendly hair salon in Downpatrick.

It is open to everyone.

The salon has no music, gentle lighting and time to settle in.

Support at appointments

People can take breaks or have the mirror covered.

They can also book a private appointment.

Familiarisation visits help children get used to the salon.

Our stylists

Olwyn and Brenda are the Silent Cuts stylists.

Customers say they are talented, kind and patient.

One parent said their child now enjoys going to the hairdresser.

The awards

The Social Enterprise NI Awards celebrate social enterprises across Northern Ireland.

Silent Cuts was shortlisted for Best New Start Up in 2026.

Silent Cuts won Best New Start Up at the Social Enterprise NI Awards 2026.

We were also Highly Commended for Best Use of Social Media.

The team received the award at the Crowne Plaza Belfast on Friday 23 October.

We are proud to bring the award back to Downpatrick.