

Policy Forum for Northern Ireland keynote seminar
Priorities for tackling educational underachievement in Northern Ireland

Timing: Morning, Monday, 11th October 2021

Taking Place Online



**POLICY FORUM
FOR NORTHERN
IRELAND**

Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Pat Sheehan MLA, Deputy Chairperson, Committee for Education
- 9.05 **Key findings from the Expert Panel and priorities for addressing educational underachievement**
Dr Noel Purdy, Director of Research and Scholarship, Head of Education Studies, Director of the Centre for Research in Educational Underachievement, Stranmillis University College and Chair, Expert Panel on Educational Underachievement, Department of Education
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 Break
- 9.35 **Tackling educational underachievement in Northern Ireland - key policy priorities moving forward**
Michelle McIlveen MLA, Minister of Education
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10:05 **The role of early learning and development in laying the groundwork for later learning - developing a play-based curriculum for Foundation Stage, improving early language skills, preparedness for primary study, and investment in the sector**
Alison McNulty, CEO, TinyLife
Barry Corr, Principal, Seaview Primary School, Glenarm
Senior representative, nursery
Senior representative, local authority
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.55 **Chair's closing remarks**
Pat Sheehan MLA, Deputy Chairperson, Committee for Education
- 11.00 Break
- 11.05 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Member of the Legislative Assembly
- 11.10 **Improving the curriculum and assessment landscape - addressing levels of inconsistency in curriculum implementation in schools and the development of a 'System Evaluation Framework', considering the interests of 14-19 learners and the role of assessment in bridging the educational achievement gap**
Dr William Kitchen, Lecturer in Education, STEM, Stranmillis University College
Michael Allen, Principal, Lisneal College, Derry-Londonderry
Senior representative, primary school
Senior representative, further education
Senior representative, assessment provider
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.00 Break
- 12.05 **Socio-economic deprivation and educational underachievement - improving co-operation between schools and communities, closing the gender-based underachievement gap, and addressing the impact of mental health issues on educational attainment**
Stephen Mullan, Chief Executive, Dreamscheme Northern Ireland
Dr Erin Early, Research Assistant, Centre for Education Policy and Equalising Opportunities, University College London
Professor Siobhan O'Neill, Mental Health Champion for Northern Ireland
Rita Moore, Principal, St Mary's Limavady
Senior representative, local authority
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Policy Forum for Northern Ireland closing remarks**
Senior Member of the Legislative Assembly
Sean Cudmore, Deputy Editor, Policy Forum for Northern Ireland