

**Policy Forum for Northern Ireland keynote seminar:  
Next steps for mental health policy in Northern Ireland**

*Timing: Morning, Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023*

**\*\*\*Taking place online\*\*\***



**POLICY FORUM  
FOR NORTHERN  
IRELAND**

*Draft agenda, subject to change*

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**  
**Pádraig Delargy MLA**, Chairperson of the All Party Group on Mental Health, Sinn Fein
- 9.05 **Assessing key priorities for improving mental health service provision**  
**Professor Siobhan O'Neill**, Mental Health Champion for Northern Ireland; and Professor of Mental Health Sciences, Ulster University  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.35 Break
- 9.40 **Improving service provision - challenges and priorities for targeted prevention and early intervention, enhancing care in the community, addiction services, and crisis support**  
**Sheena McMullen**, Campaigns, Advocacy and Policy Advisor, Action for Children  
**Gary McMichael**, Chief Executive, Ascertain NI  
Senior representative, practitioners  
Senior representative, community care
- 10.00 **Listening to the voices of lived experience to inform future policy direction**  
**Matthew Taylor**, 'Co-Founder of UK's first youth-led mental health charity'
- 10.10 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.40 **Chair's closing remarks**  
**Pádraig Delargy MLA**, Chairperson of the All Party Group on Mental Health, Sinn Fein
- 10.45 Break
- 10.55 **Chair's opening remarks**  
**Deborah Erskine MLA**, Vice-Chair, All Party Group on Mental Health, Democratic Unionist Party
- 11.00 **Developing CAMHS provision - improving access and developing services for students through the education pathway, support at university and transitioning to adult services, and effective care outside of a CAMHS setting**  
**David Babington**, Chief Executive, Action Mental Health  
**Stephen Dallas**, Chief Executive Officer, The Bytes Project  
**Ian Power**, Chief Executive Officer, Spunout  
Senior academic  
Senior representative, transition pathways  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.50 **Support for the workforce to meet the aims of the Mental Health Strategy - priorities for recruitment, training and retention, workplace support and professional development, and the role of voluntary and unpaid carers in service provision**  
**Dr Stephen Moore**, Vice Chair, Royal College of Psychiatrists  
Senior representative, voluntary services  
Senior representative, union  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.20 Break
- 12.25 **The way forward for mental health services in Northern Ireland**  
**Peter May**, Permanent Secretary, Department of Health  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Policy Forum for Northern Ireland closing remarks**  
**Deborah Erskine MLA**, Vice-Chair, All Party Group on Mental Health, Democratic Unionist Party  
**Tiernan Phipps**, Lead Researcher, Policy Forum for Northern Ireland