

Policy Forum for Northern Ireland keynote seminar:

Priorities for SEN provision in NI

Timing: Morning, Thursday, 7th December 2023

Taking place online



Agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Nicola Brogan MLA
- 9.05 **Assessing the current landscape for SEN provision in Northern Ireland**
Professor Noel Purdy, Director, Centre for Research in Educational Underachievement (CREU); and Head of Education Studies, Stranmillis University College
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.35 Break
- 9.40 **Improving service provision for children with SEN - early intervention, developing a child-centred approach, and learning from research to inform practice**
James Curran, Principal, Harberton Special School
Charlene Brooks, Chief Executive, Parenting NI
Dr Mairead Tracey, Teacher and SENCo, Broadbridge Primary School, Londonderry
Stephen McCartney, Head of Student Experience, Northern Regional College
- 10.05 **Moving toward an inclusive SEN education policy - learning from the approach of other jurisdictions in the development of services**
Amanda Hatton, Executive Director, Education and Children's Services, The City of Edinburgh Council
- 10.15 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.45 **Chair's closing remarks**
Nicola Brogan MLA
- 10.50 Break
- 11.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Tiernan Phipps, Lead Researcher, Policy Forum for Northern Ireland
- 11.05 **Learning from SEN profiling and research to inform approaches to service delivery**
Christine Kearney, Director of Development, Autism NI
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.25 **Workforce priorities - putting in place enablers for supporting SEN service development, addressing key shortages, training programmes, and options for SEN Support Hubs**
Dr Graham Gault, Director, NAHT Northern Ireland
Orla Nig Fhearraigh, Acting Senior Education Officer, Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta
Tracy Rossborough, Teacher and SENCo, Ashfield Girls' High School, Belfast
Donna Wigggett, Senior Educational Psychologist, Education Authority
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.15 Break
- 12.20 **Policy priorities and next steps post-review**
Janis Scallon, Director of Inclusion, Department of Education
Shauna Collinson, Interim Assistant Director of SEND Statutory Services, Education Authority
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Policy Forum for Northern Ireland closing remarks**
Tiernan Phipps, Lead Researcher, Policy Forum for Northern Ireland