

**Policy Forum for Northern Ireland Keynote Seminar: Tackling poverty and assessing the impact of welfare reform in Northern Ireland**

Timing: Morning, Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2016

Venue: Stormont Hotel, Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast BT4 3LP

Draft agenda subject to change



**POLICY FORUM  
FOR NORTHERN  
IRELAND**

- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chair's opening remarks**  
**Alex Maskey MLA**, Chair, Committee for Social Development, Northern Ireland Assembly
- 9.05 - 9.25 **The policy context of welfare reform**  
**Lord Morrow of Clogher Valley MLA**, Minister for Social Development, Northern Ireland Executive
- 9.25 - 9.35 **Ensuring the effective use of additional support funds**  
**Professor Eileen Evason**, Lead, Welfare Reform Mitigations Working Group
- 9.35 - 10.35 **Challenges and opportunities of welfare reforms**  
**Karen Hall**, Assistant Director, Policy and External Relations, Disability Action  
**Les Allamby**, Chief Commissioner, Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission  
**Dr Esmond Birnie**, Chief Economist, Northern Ireland and Scotland, PwC  
**Clark Bailie**, Chief Executive, Northern Ireland Housing Executive  
**Bob Stronge**, Chief Executive Officer, Advice NI  
**Tina McKenzie**, Managing Director, PeoplePlus NI  
Questions and comments from the floor with **Professor Eileen Evason**, Lead, Welfare Reform Mitigations Working Group
- 10.35 - 11.05 **Implementing welfare reform in Northern Ireland**  
**Tommy O'Reilly**, Chief Executive, Social Security Agency, Department for Social Development  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.05 - 11.10 **Chair's closing remarks**  
**Alex Maskey MLA**, Chair, Committee for Social Development, Northern Ireland Assembly
- 11.10 - 11.40 Coffee
- 11.40 - 11.45 **Chair's opening remarks**  
**Mike Nesbitt MLA**, Leader, Ulster Unionist Party
- 11.45 - 12.05 **Strategies for alleviating poverty and promoting social inclusion**  
**Quintin Oliver**, Northern Ireland Adviser, Joseph Rowntree Foundation and Director, Stratagem NI  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.05 - 12.55 **Practical routes out of poverty: case studies and initiatives**  
  
*The importance of early intervention in tackling social exclusion and reducing poverty*  
**Siobhan Fitzpatrick**, Chief Executive Officer, Early Years  
  
*Utilising the skills and resources of business to tackle poverty*  
**Kieran Harding**, Managing Director, Business in the Community  
  
*Supporting children and young people from socially disadvantaged areas*  
**Paddy Mooney**, Director, Include Youth  
  
*The role of education and training in promoting social mobility*  
**Ken Webb**, Principal and Chief Executive, South Eastern Regional College  
  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chair's and Policy Forum for Northern Ireland closing remarks**  
**Mike Nesbitt MLA**, Leader, Ulster Unionist Party  
**Sean Cudmore**, Deputy Editor, Policy Forum for Northern Ireland