

PfNI policy conference - Priorities for improving mental health provision in Northern Ireland - the Mental Health Action Plan, responding to COVID-19 & priorities for a mental health strategy - speakers: Mental Health Champion for NI - 9th December 2020

This full-scale conference is

easily accessed online for full participation, and includes:

- full, four-hour programme including comfort breaks - you'll also get a full recording to refer back to
- information-rich discussion involving key policymakers and stakeholders
- conference materials provided in advance, including speaker biographies
- speakers presenting via webcam, accompanied by slides if they wish, using the Cisco WebEx professional online conference platform (easy for delegates - we'll provide full details)
- opportunities for live delegate questions and comments with all speakers
- a recording of the addresses, all slides cleared by speakers, and further materials, is made available to all delegates afterwards as a permanent record of the proceedings
- delegates are able to add their own written comments and articles following the conference, to be distributed to all attendees and more widely
- networking too - there will be opportunities for delegates to e-meet and interact - we'll tell you how!
- video recordings - including slides - are also available to purchase

Full information and guidance on how to take part will be sent to delegates before the conference

Priorities for improving mental health provision in Northern Ireland - implementing the Mental Health Action Plan, responding to COVID-19 and the priorities for a mental health strategy

Morning, Wednesday, 9th December 2020

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with

Professor Siobhan O'Neill,

Interim Mental Health Champion for Northern Ireland, and Professor of Mental Health Sciences, Ulster University

and

Dr Julie Anderson,

Royal College of Psychiatrists;

Dr Laurence Dorman,

Royal College of General Practitioners NI;

Clare-Anne Magee,

Carers Northern Ireland.

Dr Julie-Ann Maney,

Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children and RCPCCH Ireland Committee.

Dr Ursula Mason,

South Belfast Federation, Carryduff Surgery, and Royal College of Psychiatrists Northern Ireland;

James A. Maxwell,

Carrickfergus Grammar School;

Dr Richard Wilson,

Royal College of Psychiatrists Northern Ireland; and a senior speaker confirmed from RCN Northern Ireland

Chaired by:

Pam Cameron MLA,

Deputy Chair, Committee for Health, Northern Ireland Assembly

Órlaithí Flynn MLA,

Member, Committee for Health, Northern Ireland Assembly

Please share this email with interested colleagues

Note: fees apply for most delegates, but concessionary and complimentary places are available

The Policy Forum for Northern Ireland is a division of Westminster Forum Projects, an impartial and cross-party organisation which has no policy agenda of its own. Forums operated by Westminster Forum Projects enjoy considerable support from within Parliament and Government.

I'm inviting you to this conference, which will discuss the priorities for improving mental health provision in Northern Ireland.

Areas for discussion include:

- implementing the [Mental Health Action Plan](#) including responding to COVID-19
- delivering improved provision for children and young people
- funding
- service delivery improvement priorities for the development of a mental health strategy

Why this is particularly relevant now - the context for discussion:

[The Mental Health Action Plan](#)

Recently launched with a commitment to produce a 10-year mental health strategy as well as:

- creation of managed care networks - and improving pathways, transitions, and primary and emergency care
- proposals for an Innovation Fund for local initiatives
- actions to improve the governance structure
- increases to the workforce and supporting them with new ways of working
- implementation of the [inter-departmental plan](#) in response to the [Still Waiting](#) review from the Northern Ireland's Commissioner for Children and Young People
- developing a 10-year funding plan
- gaining a better understanding of the system and available services and enhance user involvement

[The new Mental Health Champion](#)

- the appointment of **Professor Siobhan O'Neill**, who is a keynote speaker at the seminar

[A COVID-19 mental health response plan](#)

Published as part of the Mental Health Action Plan:

- coordinating a resilient response, promoting wellbeing through public health messaging, and provision of advice in light of social distancing measures
- interventions that are evidence-based with specific actions for child and adolescent mental health services
- contingencies for dealing with pressures on mental health services before COVID-19, and responding to expected surges and developing recovery plans

[Reports and research](#)

- Findings that Northern Ireland lacks an up to date strategy and mental health services require increased investment, by the [Northern Ireland Affairs Committee](#) in their health funding report
- The Department of Health's [health and wellbeing report to 2026](#) to transform health services in Northern Ireland placing an emphasis on developing systems and person-centred care

Key areas for discussion:

The Mental Health Action Plan

Discussing implementation, including:

- opportunities for driving forward mental health provision improvements following the launch of a Mental Health Action Plan
- the role of the new mental health champion in raising awareness and being an advocate for mental health.

Responding to mental health and wellbeing during COVID-19

How service delivery has been impacted by the pandemic and ways that it has had to adapt, as well as priorities for recovery, and key learnings for the development of a mental health strategy, including:

- innovative support methods that have been developed and adopted, delivering mental health support remotely, and utilising data to make informed decisions and plans
- coping with increased demand and preparing for expected peaks - and how this has impacted workforce pressures
- supporting the mental health workforce deliver care through the pandemic - and providing mental health support to the wider health workforce
- dealing with the long term effects on mental health and service provision, identifying need and supporting vulnerable groups, and effective public health messaging around mental wellbeing

Improving children and young people's mental health provision

Implementation of the inter-departmental plan in response to the *Still Waiting* review which has set out recommendations, looking at:

- supporting carers and adults working with children
- provision for children and young people with learning disabilities and additional needs
- developing specialist support and flexible treatment options
- enabling children to access help and provide mental health awareness
- improving the transition from child to adult services

The pandemic

- its impact on children's mental health
- strategies for supporting children through the disruption of school closures and managing the potential long-term effects
- adaptation of services and preparing for surges in child mental health cases

Developing a mental health strategy

- funding - priorities in mental health and the development of a 10-year funding plan
- the mental health workforce - with the Mental Health Action Plan including a review if funding allows, delegates will discuss:
 - increasing and adapting the mental health workforce to new methods of working
 - priorities for recruitment
 - the impact of COVID-19 on the workforce
 - supporting the workforce to use technology effectively
- developing systems and person-centred care - with the emphasis on this in the Department of Health's health and wellbeing report to 2026, delegates will assess:
 - how to support primary care practitioners to deliver these improvements for mental health
 - the ways that the mental health strategy can work to build on the thinking and work being carried out around this already
- engagement with patients:

- their role in the development of the mental health strategy to ensure that services are user friendly and informed by service users to make it effective
- making mental health support as accessible as possible
- innovation:
 - priorities for the proposed innovation fund for local mental health initiatives
 - the role of community, third sector and voluntary groups in mental health support
 - ways that innovative methods stemming for the work of these groups can be supported and encouraged through the development of a fund
- a specialist community perinatal mental health service - with its development being a key ambition, delegates will discuss:
 - priorities and practicalities for developing this specialist service
 - how to realise the wider benefits it can also have in improving children's health

[Full-scale policy conference taking place online](#)

The agenda:

- Driving forward mental health provision improvements, raising awareness, and implementation of the Mental Health Action Plan
- Responding to mental health and wellbeing during the COVID-19 pandemic - service delivery, innovative support methods, coping with increased demand and supporting the workforce
- Delivering improved mental health provision for children and young people and managing the impact of COVID-19
- Dealing with the long-term effects of COVID-19, identifying need, supporting vulnerable groups and effective public health messaging
- Priorities for funding, improving decision-making and commissioning
- Increasing and adapting the mental health workforce to new methods of working
- Key service improvements, priorities and community and patient engagement opportunities for the development of a mental health strategy

Policy officials attending:

Our forums are known for attracting strong interest from policymakers and stakeholders.

I do hope that you will be able to join us for what promises to be a most useful morning, and look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely,

Sean

Sean Cudmore

Deputy Editor, **Policy Forum for Northern Ireland**

(we are all working from home)

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Chairs and speakers

Keynote contributions: **Professor Siobhan O'Neill**, Interim Mental Health Champion for Northern Ireland, and Professor of Mental Health Sciences, Ulster University

Speakers also confirmed: **Dr Julie Anderson**, Chair, Faculty of Perinatal Psychiatry, Royal College of Psychiatrists; **Dr Laurence Dorman**, Chair, Royal College of General Practitioners NI; **Clare-Anne Magee**, Head, Carers Northern Ireland; **Dr Julie-Ann Maney**, Consultant, Paediatric Emergency Medicine, Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children and Standards for Children and Young People in Emergency Care Settings Representative, RCPCH Ireland Committee; **Dr Ursula Mason**, Chair, South Belfast Federation; GP, Carryduff Surgery; and Vice-Chair, Royal College of Psychiatrists Northern Ireland; **James A. Maxwell**, Principal, Carrickfergus Grammar School; **Dr Richard Wilson**, Chair, Royal College of Psychiatrists Northern Ireland; and a senior speaker confirmed from **RCN Northern Ireland**.

Chairs: **Pam Cameron MLA**, Deputy Chair, Committee for Health, Northern Ireland Assembly; and **Órlaithí Flynn MLA**, Member, Committee for Health, Northern Ireland Assembly.

Additional senior participants are being approached, but if you or a colleague would like to be considered as a speaker at this seminar, please contact us at speakeroffers@forumsupport.co.uk specifying the event and session where you would like to speak and we'll get back to you as soon as possible. If you are offering to speak yourself please don't fill in the booking form, as this will be taken as an order and you will be charged for a place subject to our T&Cs.

Attendees

This is **CPD** certified ([more details](#)).

Overall, we expect speakers and attendees to be a senior and informed group including Members of the NI Assembly, senior executive officials and regulators involved in this area of public policy, together with senior leaders from HSC trusts, local authorities, representatives from the Royal Colleges and other professional bodies and trade unions, health charities and third sector, pharmaceutical companies, housing associations, patient advocacy groups and charities, consultancies and academics, commentators, legal and financial specialists, as well as reporters from the specialist, NI and national media.

Booking arrangements

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To book places, please use our [\[online booking form\]](#).

Once submitted, this will be taken as a confirmed booking and will be subject to our terms and conditions below.

You can also pay in advance by credit card on 01344 864796. If advance credit card payment is not possible, please let me know and we may be able to make other arrangements.

Options and charges are as follows:

- Access to *Priorities for improving mental health provision in Northern Ireland - implementing the Mental Health Action Plan, responding to COVID-19 and the priorities for a mental health strategy* (plus a permanent record of proceedings) is **£190** plus VAT per delegate.
- Concessionary rate places for small charities, unfunded individuals and those in similar circumstances are **£85** plus VAT. Please be sure to apply for this at the time of booking.

If you find the charge for places a barrier to attending:

- please let me know as concessionary and complimentary places are made available in certain circumstances
- typical eligibility: individual service users or carers not supported by or part of an organisation, full-time students, unemployed and fully retired people with no paid work, and small charities
- concessions are not offered to businesses, individuals funded by an organisation, or larger charities/not-for-profit companies.

Please note terms and conditions below (including **cancellation charges**)

Priorities for improving mental health provision in Northern Ireland - implementing the Mental Health Action Plan, responding to COVID-19 and the priorities for a mental health strategy

Timing: Morning, Wednesday, 9th December 2020

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Draft agenda subject to change

- | | |
|------|---|
| 8.30 | Registration |
| 9.00 | <u>Chair's opening remarks</u>
Órlaithí Flynn MLA, Member, Committee for Health, Northern Ireland Assembly |
| 9.05 | <u>Driving forward mental health provision improvements, raising awareness, and implementation of the Mental Health Action Plan</u>
Professor Siobhan O'Neill, Interim Mental Health Champion for Northern Ireland, and Professor of Mental Health Sciences, Ulster University
Questions and comments from the floor |
| 9.30 | <u>Responding to mental health and wellbeing during the COVID-19 pandemic - service delivery, innovative support methods, coping with increased demand and supporting the workforce</u>
Dr Laurence Dorman, Chair, Royal College of General Practitioners NI |

Dr Richard Wilson, Chair, Royal College of Psychiatrists Northern Ireland
Clare-Anne Magee, Head, Carers Northern Ireland
Senior representative, third sector
Questions and comments from the floor

10.10 Break

10.15 **Delivering improved mental health provision for children and young people and managing the impact of COVID-19**

James A. Maxwell, Principal, Carrickfergus Grammar School
Dr Julie-Ann Maney, Consultant, Paediatric Emergency Medicine, Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children and Standards for Children and Young People in Emergency Care Settings Representative, RCPCH Ireland Committee
Senior representative, children's services
Questions and comments from the floor

10.50 **Chair's closing remarks**

Órlaithí Flynn MLA, Member, Committee for Health, Northern Ireland Assembly

10.55 Break

11.05 **Chair's opening remarks**

Pam Cameron MLA, Deputy Chair, Committee for Health, Northern Ireland Assembly

11.10 **Dealing with the long term effects of COVID-19, identifying need, supporting vulnerable groups and effective public health messaging**

Senior speaker, public health
Questions and comments from the floor

11.30 **Priorities for funding, improving decision-making and commissioning**

Senior commentator

11.40 **Increasing and adapting the mental health workforce to new methods of working**

Senior speaker confirmed from **RCN Northern Ireland**
Questions and comments from the floor

11.50 Break

Key service improvements, priorities and community and patient engagement opportunities for the development of a mental health strategy

11.55 *Supporting mental health in primary care and delivering person-centred care pathways*

Dr Ursula Mason, Chair, South Belfast Federation; GP, Carryduff Surgery; and Vice-Chair, Royal College of Psychiatrists Northern Ireland

12.05 *Improving access, support and service provision*

Senior representative, patient

12.15 *Advancing local innovative approaches to mental health support*

Senior representative, community

12.25 *Developing a specialist community perinatal mental health service*

Dr Julie Anderson, Chair, Faculty of Perinatal Psychiatry, Royal College of Psychiatrists
Questions and comments from the floor

12.55

Chair's and Policy Forum for Northern Ireland closing remarks

Pam Cameron MLA, Deputy Chair, Committee for Health, Northern Ireland Assembly

Sean Cudmore, Deputy Editor, Policy Forum for Northern Ireland

About Us

The Policy Forum for Northern Ireland is strictly impartial and cross-party, and draws on the considerable support it receives from within Parliament and Government, and amongst the wider stakeholder community. The Forum has no policy agenda of its own. Forum events are frequently the platform for major policy statements from senior Ministers, regulators and other officials, opposition spokespersons and senior opinion-formers in industry and interest groups. Events regularly receive prominent coverage in the national and trade media.

www.policyforumforNI.co.uk

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