

# Policy Forum for Northern Ireland Keynote Seminar: Priorities for primary care in Northern Ireland

Timing: Morning, Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> November 2017

Venue: Belfast



**POLICY FORUM  
FOR NORTHERN  
IRELAND**

Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chair's opening remarks**  
**Paula Bradley MLA**, Northern Ireland Assembly
- 9.05 - 9.40 **Assessing the challenges in primary care**  
**Dr Grainne Doran**, Chair, Royal College of General Practitioners, Northern Ireland  
**Dr Tom Black**, Chair, Northern Ireland General Practitioners Committee, British Medical Association  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.40 - 10.35 **Priorities for shaping services and supporting reform in the primary care sector**  
*With a shortage of GPs - along with an aging workforce - cited as key issues for primary care, how should the challenge of training greater numbers of GPs be approached? Can GP training be further enhanced - including through greater immersion within general practice settings - to prepare young doctors for work? How could improved opportunities for further professional development and career widening within general practice be introduced to help to retain staff within the sector in Northern Ireland? In the development of primary care infrastructure - and in line with the policy priorities stemming from Delivering Together - how can investment be used most effectively in building sustainable and effective centres of primary and community care, including in multi-disciplinary hubs of care? How could digital and medical technology be further integrated into current and future primary care infrastructure and used to help improve efficiency in services? With the proposed shift in services toward primary care, what are the priorities for commissioning - particularly in local commissioning groups - in the context of achieving value for money? Given the scale of reform to primary care services, how sufficiently have patient voices been considered in shaping services, and what opportunities might patients and users have in ongoing and subsequent reviews of reformed services?*  
**Professor Margaret Cupples**, Department of General Practice and Primary Care, School of Medicine, Dentistry and Biomedical Sciences, Queen's University, Belfast  
**Dr Claire Loughrey**, Director of Postgraduate General Practice Education, Northern Ireland Medical and Dental Training Agency  
**Maeve Hully**, Chief Executive, Patient and Client Council  
**Andrew Murray**, Director, Todd Architects  
Senior representative, health and social care board, commissioning  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.35 - 10.40 **Chair's closing remarks**  
**Paula Bradley MLA**, Northern Ireland Assembly
- 10.40 - 11.05 Coffee
- 11.05 - 11.10 **Chair's opening remarks**  
**Mark H Durkan MLA**, Northern Ireland Assembly
- 11.10 - 11.25 **Supporting primary care services - lessons from other jurisdictions**  
**Jill Matthews**, Managing Director, Intensive Expert Management Team, Primary Care Support Services, NHS England
- 11.25 - 11.35 **Priorities in shaping general practice into the future**  
**Dr Alan Stout**, Deputy Chairman, Northern Ireland General Practitioners Committee and Assistant Secretary, Eastern Local Medical Committee and Department of Health Expert Panel Member (2016)
- 11.35 - 12.30 **Implementation and management of the effective integration of services in primary care**  
*How can the needs of local populations be best reflected in the reform of primary and community care services - as hubs of community care are formed with the inclusion and integration of community nurses, mental health workers, allied health professionals and other services into practices - and what steps will these need to take to help improve pathways between acute, primary, community and secondary care? Given the growing need to treat patients with multiple conditions across different life stages, what are examples of best practice - such as current community pharmacy schemes and community hubs; how can this experience be most effectively shared and rolled out effectively in other areas to improve outcomes for patients? With a focus on putting patients at the centre of their own care, and to reduce waiting times in primary care settings, what changes are needed in the way support is delivered to enhance self-management of long-term conditions - particularly through effective guidance and signposting to the most appropriate services? What options - including the devolution of budgetary and commissioning powers - can help GP Federations provide the best services to their patients, specifically to the needs of local populations?*  
**Dr Margaret O'Brien**, Head of General Medical Services, Directorate of Integrated Care, HSCB  
**Jeannie Watkins**, Senior Lecturer and Clinical Placement Lead, St George's University of London; Chair, Professional Standards Sub-Committee and President, Faculty of Physician Associates, Royal College of Physicians  
Senior speaker confirmed from **Community Development and Health Network**  
Senior speaker, Allied Health Professionals  
Questions and comments from the floor with **Jill Matthews**, Managing Director, Intensive Expert Management Team, Primary Care Support Services, NHS England and **Dr Alan Stout**, Deputy Chairman, Northern Ireland General Practitioners Committee and Assistant Secretary, Eastern Local Medical Committee and Department of Health Expert Panel Member (2016)
- 12.30 - 12.55 **The future of primary care services in Northern Ireland**  
**Mark Lee**, Director of Primary Care, Department of Health  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chair's and Policy Forum for Northern Ireland closing remarks**  
**Mark H Durkan MLA**, Northern Ireland Assembly  
**Sean Cudmore**, Deputy Editor, Policy Forum for Northern Ireland