

## NICON24 Speaker Biographies

*Please note: the below list includes the bios of speakers available at time of print; as such, it may not contain **all** the NICON24 speakers.*

### **Emma Challans-Rasool, Director of NHS Horizons and Founder and Director of Proud2bOps**



Emma has worked across healthcare for over 20 years and is an experienced Board level Director and international leader within the health and care sector. She is a values driven leader centred around people, continually striving for innovation and improvement that enhances patient, colleague, and customer experience.

Emma is proud to have led in various senior leadership roles including Operational Management, Continuous Improvement, socio and technical movements, Leadership and Culture Transformation.

Emma's public sector experience spans community, primary care, acute and independent. She has also gained experience within the private healthcare sector and worked across Europe advising and supporting organisational change, quality, and effectiveness.

Emma started her career as a PA and Business Administration and has climbed her way through the steps of a healthcare career ladder. Emma believes dearly and holds a constant ambition to develop and sustain cultures where social networking, compassion, motivation and learning for improvement is valued and lived through the behaviours of people and systems.

Emma is the Director of NHS Horizons, a team of passionate and experienced large-scale complex change leaders and she is the Founder and Director of Proud2bOps. Proud2bOps is an innovative, multi award-winning national network of administrative and operational professionals from health and care providers. Emma is a national advisor across health and care and management and a member of the BMJ Leader International Editorial Advisory Board and Ambassador of the OD Academy.

### **Briege Donaghy, Chief Executive, Regulation and Quality Improvement Agency (RQIA)**



Briege is the Chief Executive of the Regulation and Quality Improvement Agency (RQIA). Prior to this, she was the Director of Integrated Care Prototype since October 2019, her substantive role being Director of Strategic Development and Business Services in the Northern Health and Social Care Trust. The role included responsibility for ICT, Informatics, Capital Development, Strategic Planning, Performance Management, Quality Improvement and Contracting with independent providers. Briege has worked in health and social care since 1983 after graduating from Queens University Belfast.

**Dr Maria O'Kane, Chief Executive, Southern Health and Social Care Trust**



Dr O'Kane took up post as Chief Executive on 1st May 2022, having been the Trust's Medical Director since December 2018 and Interim Director of Mental Health and Disability from April 2021 to February 2022.

**Professor Mark Taylor, Northern Ireland Director, Royal College of Surgeons of England**



Prof Mark A Taylor CSTJ PhD FRCSI FRCS(Eng) FRCS(Gen Surg) is a Consultant HPB Surgeon at the Mater Hospital, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust and Visiting Professor, Ulster University. He trained in Belfast and at the Regional HPB and Transplant Unit in Edinburgh. His Doctorate of Philosophy was in the pathophysiology of obstructive jaundice. He is the Past President of GBI Hepato-pancreatobiliary Association (GBIHPBA), Past President of the Pancreatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland (PSGBI), Past Lead for Education, Research and Training for the Association of Upper Gastro- Intestinal Surgeons (AUGIS) and on the Medical Advisory Board of Bowel Cancer UK.

In 2016, he was appointed by the Health Minister to an independent Expert (Bengoa) panel tasked with Reconfiguration of Health and Social Care in Northern Ireland. In 2017 he was appointed to the Transformation Implementation Group (TIG) Department of Health. In 2018 he was appointed the Director of Professional Affairs (NI) for the Royal College of Surgeons of England. He has published extensively in the field of Hepatobiliary Surgery. He is a Trustee of Cancer Focus, NIPANC and St John Ambulance. He is passionate about innovation, change and collective leadership within the HSCNI.

### **Matthew Taylor, Chief Executive, NHS Confederation**



Matthew joined the NHS Confederation as Chief Executive in June 2021. Matthew is a high-profile public figure who has had a distinguished career at the heart of public policy for the last 20 years. He has led the RSA for 15 years and during that time he has transformed the organisation into a global institution, with 30,000 fellows and a high-profile and influential research programme. Before that he was Chief Adviser on Political Strategy to Prime Minister Tony Blair, and he also ran the Institute for Public Policy Research for four years. He is a widely known commentator on policy, politics and public service reform and regularly appears on national media programmes, including as a panellist on BBC Radio 4's Moral Maze. He was also commissioned by the Conservative

Government in 2016 to carry out an independent review into modern employment practices. Matthew started his career as a health policy researcher in the West Midlands.

Matthew brings a remarkable depth of experience at the heart of government and public policy and is a compelling advocate for our members as they face the challenges of recovering from the pandemic and delivering better health for all the communities they serve.

### **Michael Bloomfield, Chief Executive, NIAS; Vice Chair, NICON**



Michael Bloomfield was appointed as Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service in March 2018. Michael has over 35 years' experience working in the public sector. He joined the Civil Service in 1987, moving to the Department of Health in 1998 where he held a number of posts including in Public Health policy and Secondary Care policy. In 2007 he was appointed Head of Performance Management in the Service Delivery Unit, before joining the Health and Social Care Board as Assistant Director of Performance Management when it was established in 2009.

Michael was appointed Director of Corporate Services in the Board in March 2011 and in November 2012, also took on the role of Director of Performance Management and Service Improvement. In November 2016, he was appointed HSCB Deputy Chief Executive.

Michael is Chair of the Northern Ireland Major Trauma Network and Chaired the Northern Ireland Confederation for Health and Social Care (NICON) up to March 2024.

**Roisin Coulter, Chief Executive, South Eastern HSC Trust**



To lead and direct the Trust to ensure delivery of efficient and effective health and social services within allocated resources and the policies and practices of sound corporate governance. The Chief Executive is the Trust's accountable officer to the DHSSPS for all matters relating to the performance of the Trust and the discharge of delegated statutory functions.

Roisin Coulter, who began her career as a nurse at Great Ormond Street Hospital in London in 1987, has been appointed as the Chief Executive of the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust. Roisin moved back to Northern Ireland in 1992 and has devoted 34 years to Health and Social Care.

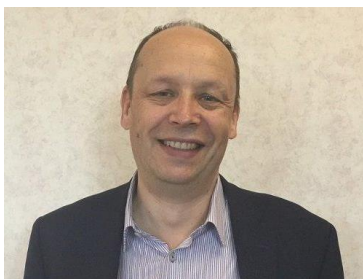
Roisin has been a member of the Trust's Senior Management Team for the past 9 years in the role of Director of Planning, Performance and Informatics.

**Dr Ursula Mason, Royal College of GP NI, Chair Elect**



Dr Ursula Mason is a GP based in Carryduff. Dr Mason's special interests are Women & Child Health, Prescribing and Teaching. Dr Mason is an Associate Director of GP Specialty Training with the Northern Ireland Medical & Dental Training Agency (NIMDTA).

**Peter May, Permanent Secretary, Department of Health**



Peter May is currently Permanent Secretary at the Department of Health. He is also one of two Diversity Champions for the NICS.

Previously Peter was Permanent Secretary at the Department for Justice, the Department for Infrastructure and the Department for Culture, Arts and Leisure. A career civil servant, his previous roles include Director, Safer Communities, DOJ and Principal Private Secretary to the Deputy First Minister.

## Nazir Afzal OBE, Independent Consultant

Nazir Afzal OBE was Chief Crown Prosecutor for NW England and formerly Director in London. He was



Chief Executive of the country's Police & Crime Commissioners and most recently, National Adviser to the Welsh Government. During a 30-year career, has prosecuted the most high-profile cases in the country & advised on many others and led nationally on several legal topics including Violence against Women & Girls, child sexual abuse, and honour based violence. He had responsibility for more than 100,000 prosecutions each year. His prosecutions of the so-called Rochdale grooming gang and hundreds of others were groundbreaking and changed the landscape of child protection.

He is the Chancellor of the University of Manchester – the largest one site university in the U.K., the most popular university in the U.K. for applications, the number 1 university for employability, 28<sup>th</sup> globally, 44.000 students, 13000 staff, 550.000 alumni, 25 Nobel Prize Winners. He is incoming Chair of the Lowry Theatre Strategic Adviser

to the People's Powerhouse. He sat on the Independent Press Standards Organisation Patron of the Association of Safeguarding Partners. He sits on the National Police Chiefs Ethics Committee. He is the first ever independent Chair of the Catholic Church's Safeguarding Agency. He is advisor to Bikal Technologies (UK) Ltd., who develop Artificial Intelligence and 5G product, largely using research from universities to transfer into a commercial product. He was Chair of the Independent Review of Culture of London Fire Brigade and the Nursing & Midwifery Council. He is Trustee of WOW (World of Women) Foundation. His memoirs "The Prosecutor" published in 2020 are currently being adapted for a British multipart drama. His new book "The Race to the Top" was published in Sept 2022. His BBC R4 'Desert Island Discs' programme was the 3rd most listened to in 2021 - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000ydp1>.

Nazir is a tutor for several leadership programmes in the public and private sector. He has made presentations to dozens of diverse organisations in this country and abroad. He has given hundreds of interviews in all forms of media. Nazir gives a considerable amount of time to charitable work and is trustee & Patron of several NGOs including ServiceSix, DVAssist, Jan Trust, Samantha Sykes Foundation, Karma Nirvana, Halo Project & SaveruUK and was Chair of the Prince of Wales' Mosaic Trust.

He is an Honorary Fellow of the University of Central Lancashire and Glyndwyr University and awarded Honorary Doctorates in Law by the University of Birmingham, Manchester, Bradford, Leicester & London South Bank Universities. He has chaired conferences in New York, Madrid, Paris, Norway and Geneva. He has assisted the Governments of Somalia, Ukraine & Pakistan on Rule of Law reform.

Nazir has received many accolades, in 2005, he was awarded an OBE by the Queen for his work. He has also had the honour of being the only lawyer to ever prosecute a case before the Queen. In 2007, he received the UK Government's Justice Award 2007 and was awarded the Daily Mirror newspaper "People's award" voted for by readers. Nazir was also selected for the Asian Power 100 along with the Muslim Power 100 list, recognised as one of the 100 most influential leading Muslims and Asians in the UK. He is listed in the Pakistan Power100 which regards him as one of the 100 most influential people of Pakistani origin in the world today. He was Asian Media Group's "Man of the Year 2012."

Most recently, he received the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Pride of Birmingham awards 2022. He was awarded the first ever “Disruptor for Good” award at the Northern Power Women Awards 2022.

The acclaimed BBC Film “Three Girls” was based on his case

- *“An inspiring figure, forensically intelligent” - Times Editorial Nov 2012*
- *“Until recently crimes encountered by pioneering prosecutor rarely troubled a courtroom, now these issues have risen to the top of the Policy agenda” – The Independent July 2012*
- *“The authentic face of British Justice” – New York Times Saturday Profile 2013*

### **Peter Jakobsen, Director – Health Service Transformation, Department of Health NI**

Peter joined the Department of Health (DoH) in November 2019 in his current role as Director of Health Service Transformation. This role includes leading on the Department’s overall health reform agenda, the ‘Reconfiguration Framework – Towards a Hospital Network’, implementation of the urgent and emergency care review, reform of stroke care and the regional review of neurology services.



During the pandemic Peter also led on surge planning as well as the structures established to manage the pandemic and rebuilding of services across the wider Health and Social Care sector.

Prior to joining DoH, Peter spent almost 20 years in various roles within the Department of Finance and more recently the Department for the Economy. Peter’s background is in economics, and he worked in specialist economist roles for the first part of his NICS career.

**Jenny Keane, Director of Pre-Hospital UEC Access, NHS England**



As the Director of Pre-Hospital UEC Access at NHSE since April 2024, Jenny provides strategic and operational leadership to a dynamic, multi-disciplinary team. In this role, Jenny ensures the effective delivery of pre-hospital access programmes as part of the UEC recovery plan and develops long-term strategies on pre-hospital access, working closely with other teams within the Operations directorate and the wider NHSE. Jenny joined NHS England in November 2021 as Director of Rehabilitation and Discharge before taking on the role of Director for Intermediate Care with responsibility for developing the policy and delivery framework for intermediate care nationally.

Prior to joining NHS England, Jenny was Chief Allied Health Professions Officer at the Department of Health in Northern Ireland. A qualified radiographer by background, Jenny was appointed as an Allied Health Professions Consultant in the Public Health Agency in 2012. She has held a number of board level appointments including the Department of Health Management Board for Rebuilding Health and Social Care (HSC) Services, the Joint Department of Health/ Department of Communities Housing in Health Board and the Northern Ireland Primary Care Board.

**Karin Jackson BEng (Hons) MSc MBA LLM CEng MIMechE, Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Blood Transfusion Service**



Karin has been the Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Blood Transfusion Service (NIBTS) and a member of the EBA Board since October 2016.

NIBTS supplies blood and components to the health service in Northern Ireland, tests all antenatal blood samples and is the reference laboratory for the region. NIBTS is required to supply blood and components compliant with both EU Directives and UK regulations.

Following a manufacturing engineering career with Ford Motor Company in Belfast and Wales, Karin joined the health service in 2002 undertaking a number of operational roles with responsibility for local and regional adult and paediatric services including the largest emergency department in Northern Ireland, the regional children's hospital as well as the regional assisted conception unit based at the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust.

Karin is a member of the UK Forum of Blood Establishments together with colleagues from NHSBT, the Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service and Welsh Blood Service and was chair of the UK Forum from 2019 to 2021.

In addition to her role of NIBTS Chief Executive, she is the Deputy Chair of the Northern Ireland Pathology Network that leads the strategic delivery of all pathology services for Northern Ireland as well as Senior Responsible Owner (SRO) for two regional digital projects:

- the Core LIMS that will replace five disparate laboratory information systems with a single system for all hospital laboratories in Northern Ireland
- the Blood Production and Tracking (BPAT) project that will introduce a digital solution to track blood donations from donor through to recipient

Karin is also Programme Director for the Pathology Blueprint Programme that is developing arrangements for a new agency for pathology services (including NIBTS) in Northern Ireland which is scheduled to be in place by 2026.

Karin has recently been elected as the UK representative on the Executive Board of the European Blood Alliance (EBA). EBA is an alliance of blood establishments across Europe including Switzerland and Norway focussed on sharing best practice as well as influencing blood safety policy nationally and globally.

Karin studied for a Master of Laws in the Legal Aspects of Medical Practice at Cardiff University with a dissertation exploring the impact on quality and safety of blood components of the Blood Safety & Quality Regulation (BSQR) introduced in 2005.

I completed the King's Fund Top Managers' Programme in 2019 and am a Managing Successful Programmes (MSP) Practitioner.

### **Peter McBride, Independent Consultant**



Peter has over 35 years' experience as a senior leader with a wide span of experience and expertise. Peter's formal career path has taken him from working as a Clergyman in Belfast in Northern Ireland in the 90s, through therapeutic involvement in bereavement services in which he developed his interest in the impact of traumatic bereavement on communities, on to become the Group Chief Executive of Inspire one of Ireland's largest Mental Health charities and finally as Director of The Cohen Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies in New Hampshire.

Throughout these varied roles, Peter has maintained his focus on the wellbeing of individuals and societies, the profound impact of trauma on both individuals and communities, and the importance of finding meaning in the confusing and conflicted world in which we live.

Alongside these primary roles Peter has engaged significantly in the broader life of civil society. In his role as Trustee of organisations such as BBC Children in Need, NI Council for Voluntary Action, The Concord Foundation, The Wheel and Compassionate City Belfast Peter influenced the



development of national and international initiatives. In his role as a fellow of The International Dialogue Initiative he has become involved in developing a deeper understanding of the impact of violence on communities, and the development of a more psychologically informed understanding of the roots and reconciliation of violence and war.

Since stepping down from his role as Director of The Cohen Center and returning to be based in NI, Peter has developed his role as a senior advisor to leaders across public, private and political arenas both nationally and internationally. He has chaired government committees such as The Inter Departmental Working Group in Mother and Baby Homes and Magdalene Laundries, as well as the Being Open strand of the implementation programme of the Inquiry into Hyponatraemia Related Deaths. He currently provides external leadership to the development of the Department of Health's Being Open Framework, and the Hospital Reconfiguration proposals for NI.

Peter continues to provide specialist advice and support to c-suite and public sector leaders in Northern Ireland and beyond, working with the most responsible decision makers to make a meaningful and lasting positive difference. His values have remained constant through the wide variety of experience and expertise that he has accrued – people are at the heart of what he does, providing support, compassion and the opportunity to make sense of difficult and challenging experiences and to find meaning in the face of difficulty and distress.

#### **Helen Moore, Director of Planning, Performance & Informatics, South Eastern HSC Trust**



Helen Moore took up post as Director of Planning, Performance & Informatics in June 2022 within the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust.

As Director, Helen is responsible for Strategic & Capital Development, Performance Improvement, Commissioning and the delivery of ICT and telecommunications across the Trust as well as Lead Director for Health Development and Population Health. Most recently acting as Trust Senior Responsible Officer Helen has been overseeing the South Eastern Trust as the first Health and Social Care Trust in Northern Ireland to implement the new Regional digital patient record system, encompass. This is the biggest single transformation in health care here in a generation.

Helen provides specialist advice and strategic leadership to the Trust Board and Chief Executive, as well as leading teams within her Directorate to deliver high quality planning, performance management and informatics services.

Helen is a registered nurse with over 30 years' experience of working in Health & Social Care in Northern Ireland having previously held the post of Assistant Director, Performance, Improvement and Commissioning prior to becoming Director.

### **Aruna Garcea, Chair, Primary Care Network**



Aruna is Chair of the Primary Care Network and a GP and Medical Advisor for Networks and Partnerships at LLR PCL (Leicester, Leicestershire City and Rutland Patient Care Locally) which is a GP Federation. She is also the Women's Health Champion for LLR ICB and a visiting professor at Lincoln University School of Pharmacy.

Over the past nine years, Aruna has been a GP partner at the University Practice in Leicester and a clinical director of Leicester City and Universities Primary Care Network. Her expertise lies in the development of partnership working and spearheading transformation of integrated pathways through digital and

workforce innovation.

### **Paula O'Kelly, Assistant Head, HSC Leadership Centre**

Paula has nearly 35 years' experience of working within Health and Social Care in Northern Ireland.



Starting as an HR professional working in a number of Trusts, Paula then joined the HSC Leadership Centre in 1997 and currently is the Assistant Head of Centre.

Paula has a keen interest in Organisational, Leadership and Personal development and has led on numerous initiatives across the HSC System during her career. These include strategic planning, service modernisation, change management and team development as well as designing and delivering Executive Leadership programmes and interventions. She ensures that she is constantly refreshing her skills and keeping up to date with new innovations and ways of working. In her role Paula now mainly works at executive and senior

level and is proud and privileged to have forged strong relationships with many Senior Executives and Senior Managers across the HSC Family.

Paula's real passion is coaching believing that it can change lives. Within the HSC Leadership Centre she is lead for Coaching which includes facilitating organisations to develop their coaching strategy, training future coaches and providing one to one coaching to ensure maximum impact.

**Meadhbha Monaghan, Chief Executive, Patient and Client Council (PCC) Northern Ireland**



Meadhbha was appointed as Chief Executive of the PCC in 2023. The PCC acts as a powerful, independent voice for the public in health and social care in Northern Ireland. Meadhbha has over ten years' experience in the homelessness, harm reduction and refugee sectors in the UK, Ireland and in the US; providing frontline support services to adults and families and engaging at a strategic level in policy development and service design, including implementation and improvement.

Her interests lie in addressing issues at the interface where social injustice, structural violence and the social determinants of health impact most profoundly. Meadhbha holds a degree in Philosophy from the University of Cambridge and an MSc in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies from the

University of Oxford.

**Vivienne Toal, Director of Human Resources & Organisational Development, Southern HSC Trust**



Mrs Vivienne Toal was appointed as Director of Human Resources & Organisational Development in the Southern Health & Social Care Trust in September 2016.

Vivienne has a wealth of HR experience, gained over 27 years in the Southern Trust, and also South and East Belfast Trust prior to joining the Southern Trust area. She leads a number of workstreams across a range of regional HROD related priorities, including a recent review of Occupational Health & Wellbeing Services. She is also involved with senior colleagues in leading the ongoing regional programme of work relating to Agency Reduction. She is a chartered member of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development.

**Professor Cathy Harrison, Chief Pharmaceutical Officer for Northern Ireland**



Professor Cathy Harrison is the Chief Pharmaceutical Officer for Northern Ireland, working at the Department of Health. In this role Cathy is the head of the pharmacy profession in Northern Ireland and the most senior professional advisor to the Minister of Health on pharmaceutical and medicines issues.

Cathy is a qualified pharmacist and undertook her pharmacy undergraduate degree at Liverpool John Moore's University and postgraduate degree at Queen's University, Belfast. After graduation in 1989 she worked in community pharmacy in England and Northern Ireland before joining the Department of Health in 2005 as Principal Pharmaceutical Officer. She was later promoted to Deputy Chief Pharmaceutical Officer before being appointed as Chief Pharmaceutical Officer in

January 2020.

Cathy leads a wide-ranging work programme involving pharmacy and medicines policy and legislation. She led the Department of Health's response to EU transition and the pharmacy response to COVID-19 and HSC rebuilding. She also leads the implementation of a strategy to improve the safety and benefits of medicines titled 'The Medicines Optimisation Quality Framework (MOQF)', supported by a Medicines Optimisation Innovation Centre (MOIC). This involves collaborative working with stakeholders from academia, industry, community development and health and social care.

Cathy has an interest in the integration of multi-skilled pharmacy teams across health and social care sectors, combining professional and technical skills with redesigned services and new technologies. Cathy is committed to realising pharmacy's greater contribution to better health outcomes for patients and more effective utilisation of health resources.

Cathy is honorary Professor of Practice at Queen's University Belfast.

#### **Heather Moorhead, Director, NICON**



Heather Moorhead was appointed as the Director of the Northern Ireland Confederation for Health and Social Care (NICON) in May 2010.

Prior to this, Heather was CEO of the Northern Ireland Local Government Association where she supported and facilitated local government improvement & modernisation.

Heather was also previously Director of the Sustainable Northern Ireland Programme where she was responsible for developing the organisation which provided advice and guidance to government departments on sustainable development issues.

Heather's earlier career was spent in the field of Environmental Health, and she held positions across various specialisms including health and safety, consumer protection, training and health promotion.

Heather is a member of the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health, the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and the Northern Ireland Chief Executives' Forum.

**Arshad Farhad, Healthcare CTO & Practice Lead – Europe, Middle East & Africa (EMEA), Dell Technologies**



Arshad Farhad, with over two decades in healthcare IT and notable expertise in AI, is a leading figure in digital healthcare. His impactful 14 years at the UK's NHS drove significant advancements in AI-driven medical solutions. Now CTO for Healthcare and Life Sciences at Dell Technologies, he pioneers innovation at the nexus of medicine and technology. He is also an advisory board member for IoT and Federated learning in Medical Informatics Europe. Pursuing a PhD in AI research, complemented by an MPhil from Oxford University, his insights promise to reshape global healthcare IT. A luminary in his field, Arshad's work is pivotal in digital medical evolution.

Outside the realm of Dell Technologies, Arshad has been an active voice in global healthcare IT forums, contributing his unique insights, and serving as an inspiration for the next generation of healthcare IT leaders. His thought leadership book, articles, white papers, and keynote addresses have been instrumental in shaping discussions on the future of healthcare IT. He is also a member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) and the European Federated Learning Board for research. He has published numerous papers including Medical Informatics Europe, IEEE and BCS ICHCI. The most recent book that he published is on GenAI strategy for healthcare and life sciences, "Nurturing Health: Unleashing the Potential of Generative AI Strategies". He lives with his wife Kiran and two children, Arham & Namrah in Cronon, Merseyside, UK.

**Teresa Molloy, Director of Planning, Performance and Corporate Services, Western HSC Trust**



Teresa Molloy has an academic background in Business Administration, Accountancy and Operations Management. Her career experience spans over 30 years, with a mix of private and public sector experience. Teresa spent 13 years at Short Brothers PLC, Defence Systems Division. Her various roles over that period spanned the sourcing, commercial contracting and supply change management of defence equipment globally. Teresa Joined the public sector in 1999, appointed as Director of the Regional Supplies Service, providing logistics services and procurement services to the HSC. She became Director of Operations for the Business Services Organisation when it was established in April 2009, responsible for a number of shared and professional services to HSC NI and primary care contractors. In 2013 Teresa joined the Western HSC Trust, as their Director of Planning, Performance and Corporate Services, and holds a varied operational portfolio as well as the strategic and corporate planning role for the Trust.

### **Jonathan Patton, Chair, NICON and South Eastern HSC Trust**



Jonathan Patton has been Chairman of the South Eastern HSC Trust since March 2020 having first served in an acting capacity from March 2020 before taking up the substantive role in April 2023. Jonathan initially joined Trust Board as a Non-Executive Director on 1 January 2017.

Jonathan brings extensive experience from across the Private Sector with a career spanning several industries including sales, recruitment and training, logistics and production at Senior Management and Director level. As a Management Consultant, Jonathan has continued to work with businesses and charities on governance, performance improvement, recruitment and health and safety policy and implementation. Jonathan's Public Sector experience has breadth and depth including the regulation of Social Workers, Pharmacists, Barristers and Solicitors, in health with doctors and dentists in training and in justice with Public Protection.

Jonathan holds further positions as follows:

- Vice President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland
- Lay Member, Disciplinary Committee of the General Council of the Bar of Northern Ireland
- Lay Member, Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal for Northern Ireland
- In the Charity Sector, Jonathan is the Chair of Community Rescue Service and an Advisory Committee Member of Sense NI (both non-remunerated roles).

### **Wendy Thompson, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance & Estates, South Eastern HSC Trust**



Wendy is a qualified chartered accountant with over 15 years' experience in Health & Social Care. During her career she has worked across a number of organisations within Health & Social Care including 7 years as Assistant Director of Finance in the South Eastern Trust and 3 years as Director of Finance in HSC Business Services Organisation.

Wendy was appointed Director of Finance & Estates for the South Eastern Trust in September 2020, and has responsibility for all aspects of Financial Management and Governance within the Organisation, as well as management of the entire Trust estate.

In addition to being Director of Finance & Estates, Wendy was appointed Deputy Chief Executive for South Eastern Trust in October 2023.

### **Craig Young, Programme Director, BSO**



Craig specialises in leading large-scale, cross-organisational digital change programmes. His current role is Programme Director, BSO for the equip and evolve programmes, delivering transformation across multiple HSC organisations.

Craig has extensive experience across multiple sectors, having worked with executive leadership across Public Sector, FTSE100 and NGOs both nationally and internationally with a range of consultancy firms, including “Big Four”. He now focuses on delivering change within health, with over a decade working within the HSC.

A graduate of the NHS Digital Academy, Craig also holds a range of academic, technical and professional qualifications - including MBA, ITIL Strategic Leader and CISSP.

### **Tony Boyle, Specialist Programme Director, BSO**



Tony has over 25 years’ experience in leading Oracle ERP transformation programmes, engaging with Multi-National clients. Over the last 7 years of his career he has specialised in Oracle Cloud ERP which he has successfully implemented for a number of private and public sector clients.

Tony has held senior positions at a number of consulting organisations including, Oracle, Capgemini and TCS. He has recently joined the Equip programme as Programme Director (specialist). Tony holds a variety of professional and academic qualifications including MBA, MSP, Prince 2, FBCS and SSADM

V4.

### **Kelly Pierce Nergaard MBE, EMEA Healthcare Industry Expert, Oracle**



Kelly joined Oracle as the EMEA Healthcare Industry Lead in summer 22, after nearly 25 years NHS service. Kelly started her career as a midwife in 1998 and went on to lead Health and Care Services at a senior level. She has managed teams in maternity, child health, social care and public health across NHS and Local Government. Her leadership has led to the creation of award-winning programmes and services including introducing new innovative digital technology to support families throughout

pregnancy and childhood.

The impact of her work was recognised in the late Queen Elizabeth II birthday honours 2021, when she was awarded the MBE for her services to the NHS particularly during Covid 19. Her passion is to ensure patients, citizens and the workforce have the best digital technology to improve services, support front line delivery and ultimately improve outcomes. She brings a wealth of industry knowledge and patient centric passion to Oracle.

#### **Hugh Nelson, Head of Community Wellbeing, Northern HSC Trust**



Hugh Nelson is Head of Community Wellbeing for the Northern Health and Social Care Trust where he is lead for Community Planning and other collaborative partnerships. Hugh is responsible for community development, prevention and early intervention services across 20 plus thematic areas including mental health, loneliness, rurality and healthy lifestyles. Hugh is committed to collaborative working on the wider determinants of health and to working with others to enhance health literacy and health equity. Hugh enjoys creative initiatives for population health which builds self-efficacy, including a place-based approach to mental wellbeing, a social prescribing service provided jointly by Trust and Age NI and building supportive networks led by community and voluntary sector colleagues.

#### **Sarah McLaughlin, IMPACTAgewell**



Sarah McLaughlin is the Executive Director for Health Programmes at Mid and East Antrim Agewell Partnership (MEAAP). She has been the lead for IMPACTAgewell® (Involving Many to Prescribe Care together), MEAAP's community development led, integrated care programme, for the last 2 years.

IMPACTAgewell® is now in its 6th year of delivery, working with 20 GP practices across Ballymena, Larne and Carrickfergus. Sarah is honoured to lead a passionate team who work within their community to recognise its assets and build effective partnerships across the voluntary and statutory sectors, joining the dots to improve lives, laying the foundation stone of integrated care for older people in Northern Ireland.



**Kim Van Vuuren, Business Applications Lead, Telefónica Tech**



Kim is a dedicated health sector professional working across the UK and Ireland, with a strong focus on leveraging technology to make impactful changes behind the scenes that support frontline services.

Passionate about net zero and sustainable practices, Kim is committed to guiding organizations to do the right thing, even when it's not the easiest path. Through their work, they strive to create a healthier, more sustainable future for all.

**Adam Jones, Data & AI Lead, Telefónica Tech**



Adam works with health sector organisations to help them harness the power of their data, so they can make impactful, data-driven decisions. With experience across central and regional NHS organisations, and overseas healthcare systems, Adam is committed to supporting healthcare organisations on their journeys to improving patient outcomes.

**Brendan McConaghy, Co-Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development, Belfast HSC Trust**



Brendan is a Co-Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development within the Belfast HSC Trust. He was a Physiotherapist within Occupational Health for 13 years before becoming interested in organisational culture change through completion of the Scottish Quality and Safety Fellowship in 2018. This led to a change in career into HR. In his current role Brendan has responsibility for a number of areas that include People and Organisational Development, Staff Experience and Occupational Health.

Brendan has a lead role in taking forward a programme of culture change within the Belfast Trust around 'Being Open'.

**Tony Griffiths, Senior Business Intelligence Analyst, Western HSC Trust**



Tony Griffiths is a Senior Business Intelligence Analyst for the Western Health and Social Care Trust. Tony plays a pivotal role in transforming the way data is used and insights are derived within the Trust to better inform care delivery.

He has led the development of several Trust-wide data analytics projects involving complex data within the areas of Unscheduled Care, Theatre Utilisation, Pharmacy Medicines Reconciliation and Domiciliary Care.

**Mark McGuicken, Director of Disability & Older People, Department of Health NI**



Mark is Director of Disability & Older People in the Department of Health. He has been a Civil Servant for more than 34 years working mainly in the Northern Ireland Office and the Department of Justice. He has been in his current role in Health since September 2021 and has overall policy responsibility for Special Education Needs, Learning Disability, Physical and Sensory Disability, Autism, Adult Safeguarding Legislation, Gender Identity, Care Homes, Home Care, Carers, Dementia, Muckamore Abbey Hospital, and the Reform of Adult Social Care. He also leads on responding to specific Modules of the COVID Inquiry.

Mark is married with three children and is an avid rugby spectator.

**Leslie-Anne Newton, Director, ARC NI**



Leslie-Anne Newton is a leader with extensive experience across the UK in both the Third and Public sectors. Since 2014, she has led the Association for Real Change (ARC) in Northern Ireland, representing the learning disability community. Leslie-Anne is known for her strategic leadership, successfully managing multi-stakeholder meetings, conference and events, and sector-specific training initiatives. She has a proven track record in brokering partnerships, influencing policy change, and facilitating impactful research collaborations with leading universities. Her career reflects a deep commitment to human rights, equality and inclusion and safeguarding, with previous roles at Save the Children, Warwickshire County Council, and NSPCC

**Ivan McMinn MBE, Chair, NI Pancreatic Cancer**



Married to Judi who is an Orthodontist and Dad to Nick (26) and Saskia (24)

Retired Corporate banker having held a number of senior executive roles within Danske Bank.

Lived experience with cancer, having been diagnosed with Pancreatic Cancer in 2011 and underwent a Whipples Procedure followed by 8 months' chemo. In between then and recurrence in 2014, ran two

London Marathons 😊

Co-Chaired the Steering Group of the Northern Ireland Cancer Strategy 2022-2032 Strategy and also a member of the Executive Steering Committee of the Encompass Programme.

Chairperson of NIPANC (Northern Ireland Pancreatic Cancer) and in addition holds a number of Trustee and Director roles in other charities, good causes and businesses within Northern Ireland. Awarded an MBE for services to charity and the community in Northern Ireland in the Queen's Birthday Honours list in April 2021.

Ivan is a keen golfer and runner and enjoys triathlons, swimming and cycling.

**Professor Ian Young, Chief Scientific Advisor to the Department of Health NI and Director of Research and Development for Health and Social Care**



Ian Young is currently Chief Scientific Advisor to the Department of Health, Northern Ireland, and Director of Research and Development for Health and Social Care. In addition, he is Professor of Medicine at Queen's University Belfast, where he was also Director of the Centre for Public Health from 2008-2014, and Consultant Chemical Pathologist at Belfast Health and Social Care Trust. His main clinical and research interests are in nutrition, particularly in relation to cardiovascular disease prevention. He is author of over 500 published research papers. He is Past-President of the UK Association for Laboratory Medicine, and previous Chair of the Joint Committee for Traceability in Laboratory Medicine (JCTLM) and the Scientific Division of the International Federation for Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine. He currently Deputy Editor for the journal *Clinical Chemistry*, Chair of the Harmonization Oversight Group of the International Consortium for the Harmonization for Clinical Laboratory Results (ICHCLR), and Chair of the UK Government Scientific Advisory Committee for Nutrition.

**Dr Michael Mitchell, Consultant Gastroenterologist, Belfast HSC Trust**

Dr Michael Mitchell is a Consultant Gastroenterologist in the Belfast HSCT with particular interests in Interventional Endoscopy, Pancreaticobiliary Disease and Cancer Services delivery.

Dr Mitchell has been on the steering groups for NCEPOD reports "Gastrointestinal Haemorrhage: Time to get control" and "Acute Pancreatitis: Treat the Cause 2016". He has recently completed terms as Associate Editor of *Diseases of the Esophagus* and on the International DDW Symposium Committee for American Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy where he is also a Fellow and a previous Ambassador. He is the British Society of Gastroenterology Endoscopy QI lead for the NI region and is on the advisory group for the BSG's ERCP Service Specification standards document due to be published in 2024.

His current roles include Clinical Director for Cancer Services in the Belfast Trust, member of the NI Cancer Programme Steering Group, and co-Chair of the NI Rapid Diagnostic Centres Strategic Oversight Group.

**Dr Eddie O'Neill, Digital Health and Care NI, Department of Health NI**



Eddie is leading the discovery and procurement of a single Directory of Services for NI.

He led the delivery of a number of high-profile digital products and services during COVID, including the COVIDCare NI and StopCOVID NI apps, and the COVID Certification Service.

**Jennifer Neff, Empowering Communities Lead**



Jennifer's expertise is in the empowerment of communities through enhancing the digital maturity of the voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise sector. Jennifer helps implement technology solutions that bridge the gap between NHS and VCSE organisations across the UK and Ireland, enabling over 20million people to self-refer and being referred to non-clinical support in the heart of their communities, addressing the social and emotional challenges they face. Jennifer is from Derry and was recently awarded Tech UK's President's Society Award.

**Chris Watts, DoS Specialist**



Chris has held several senior strategic and operational roles working across primary and urgent care for nearly 30 years. He designed and developed the Directory of Services which forms the backbone of NHS England's NHS 111 service. He is a subject matter expert in the design of digital transformation applications, specifically in DoS and capacity management solutions.

**Penny Pereira, Q Initiative Managing Director, The Health Foundation**



Penny is the Managing Director of Q: a community of thousands of people collaborating to improve the safety and quality of care across the UK and Ireland. Q includes an innovative participatory grant funding programme, Q Exchange and Q Lab, bringing people together to make progress on complex challenges. We also convene leaders to develop approaches to learning and improvement across large systems. In partnership with NHS Confederation, the Q community and the Health Foundation are supporting systems in their approach to learning and improvement, sharing insights as we go, including through a new podcast series.

Penny provides a wider leadership role on improvement for the Health Foundation, influencing policy and practice. She has led the Foundation's work on patient safety as well as work improving flow, leadership development and networks. She has co-authored multiple reports including on Learning Healthcare Systems, improving flow across systems and how to establish improvement as mainstream business.

Penny has spent her career leading improvement work at local and national level in English National Health Service, with particular expertise in process and system redesign and leading strategic change across organisations.

**Gillian Somerville, Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust**



Gillian was appointed as Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development in September 2023. She has over 30 years' experience working in Human Resources & Organisational Development. She is an experienced FCIPD HR professional with a proven track record of operating at a senior and board level in a number of fast moving and dynamic environments. Gillian is passionate about improving staff health and wellbeing and driving forward staff and leadership development, and has a history of improving staff engagement.

**Alastair Campbell, Director of Performance, Planning & Informatics, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust**



With more than 20 years' experience in the public sector, Alastair has worked in a variety of areas of social policy, including social housing, alcohol licensing, social security, and EU funding.

Having spent a number of years working in the Office of the Northern Ireland Executive in Brussels, he moved to the Department of Health in 2014 where he carried out a variety of senior roles, leading work on acute service policy, hospital reconfiguration, and Covid-19 response.

Alastair joined the Trust in 2021, initially working as Co-Director in Urgent and Emergency Care, before taking up post as Director for Planning, Performance and Informatics in 2022.

**Jon Restell, Chief Executive, Managers in Partnership (MiP)**



The MiP is the specialist union for health and care managers. As chief executive of MiP, Jon is responsible for the strategy and performance of the union, acts as our lead media spokesperson, negotiates with employers nationally, and works to influence ministers, civil servants and system leaders on behalf of senior health and care managers.

**Orla Barron, Interim Co Director of Planning and Equality, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust**



Orla took up post as interim Co Director in April 2024, having previously been Corporate Planning and Equality Lead in Belfast Trust since 2018.

She has worked on the promotion of equality and good relations in Health and Social Care since 2002, having started in South and East Belfast Legacy Trust prior to Belfast Trust being formed in 2007. She managed the Northern Ireland Health and Social Care Interpreting Service on behalf of the region from 2009 until 2014.

She was educated at University of Ulster and has recently returned to undertake a Master's in Public Administration.

**Garrett Martin, Chief Nursing and Midwifery Information Officer (CNMIO), Southern Health and Social Care Trust**



Garrett Martin is the Chief Nursing and Midwifery Information Officer (CNMIO) in the Southern Health and Social Care Trust. Garrett is responsible for providing the professional nursing leadership to ensure the successful implementation of encompass to the benefit of all citizens and those who work in Health and Social Care in Northern Ireland.

Garrett is also responsible for leading on specified digital transformation projects, championing new technologies and the development of a data driven culture across the Nursing and Midwifery professions. Focusing on quality improvement, Garrett leads on enabling change and transformation through supporting the effective use of digital health and social care systems across the Trust. In collaboration with technical, clinical and transformation teams, Garrett leads the engagement of subject matter experts to design clinical workflows to ensure safe and effective implementation, stabilisation and optimisation of encompass.

Prior to his role as CNMIO, Garrett held a number of senior clinical, managerial and professional leadership positions across a range of Health and Social Care organisations.

**Professor Stuart Elborn, RQIA Authority Member and Faculty Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Centre for Experimental Medicine, Institute for Health Sciences, School of Medicine, Dentistry and Biomedical Sciences (MDBS)**



Professor Elborn is an international leader in healthcare having driven major changes in healthcare delivery in the field of cystic fibrosis and bronchiectasis. Prior to taking up his current post at Queen's University Belfast, he was Clinical Professor of Respiratory Medicine/Consultant Physician and Director of Adult Cystic Fibrosis and Chronic Lung Infection at the National Heart and Lung Institute, Imperial College and Royal Brompton Hospital London. His research into Cystic Fibrosis has led to major breakthroughs in treating the condition. He has been successful in developing programmes of research across disciplines, hospitals and universities in Northern Ireland as well as across the UK and Europe.

Professor Elborn was appointed to RQIA Interim Authority on 30 October 2020, and as a Member of the Authority from 1 February 2023 for a four-year term. Professor Elborn chairs RQIA's Business, Appointments and Remuneration Committee (BARC).

In 2013 he received a CBE for services to healthcare in Northern Ireland.



**Tricia Blatherwick, Chief Commercial Officer, AutogenAI**



Tricia Blatherwick is the Chief Commercial Officer at AutogenAI. She has spent over 30 years working for some of the UK's largest IT and Outsourcing companies, generating sales in excess of £4bn. She holds a degree in English Literature and an MBA in Strategic Discourse - and is passionate about the power of language - including business language - to motivate, inspire and create change in the world. Having put in the 'hard yards' of bid writing throughout her career, she also knows that the Proposal industry is way overdue for a technological breakthrough - which is the reason she joined the leadership team at AutogenAI.

With 5 kids, 2 snooty cats and a dopey Labrador, Tricia thrives on creativity, stimulation and intravenous caffeine.

**Ellen Dickson, VP of Enterprise Health, Telefónica Tech**



Ellen is a veteran of 2 decades working inside technology and healthcare, supporting major enterprise clients through complex transition and transformation programmes, growing our customer base, references and credibility across the vertical both in the UK and the island of Ireland.

**Jim Wilkinson, Head of Healthcare Policy Group, Department of Health**



Jim Wilkinson is head of Health Care Policy Group in the Department of Health, which leads on policy and strategy development to support HSC delivery, improvement and transformation across all areas: Primary Care, Secondary Care, Dentistry and Ophthalmics and Workforce.

Prior to joining the Department of Health Jim worked in the Department for the Economy with lead responsibility for Apprenticeship, Youth Training and Careers Policy and Strategy and associated reform programmes. He has worked across several NI Departments including the Department of Communities, Department of Environment, Department of Education and Department for Employment and Learning, and has taken forward a wide range of policy and organisational development initiatives.

**Tracey McCaig, Interim Chief Operating Officer, SPPG, Department of Health**



Tracey McCaig was appointed interim Chief Operating Officer with the Department of Health's Strategic Planning and Performance Group (SPPG) in September 2024.

A Chartered Management accountant, with a 35-year career in Health and Social Care, Tracey has held a number of senior finance roles across HSC, ranging from internal audit to senior positions in the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service, Northern Health and Social Care Trust, Health and Social Care Board and Public Health Agency.

Tracey's substantive role is Director of Finance and Corporate Governance in the SPPG, a position she has held since February 2021.

Tracey is a committed health and social care advocate, with a proven track record in team leadership, quality improvement, financial governance and multi-disciplinary HSC team working to effect change, add value and improve HSC services.

**Professor Joanne McClean, Director of Public Health, HSC Public Health Agency**



Dr Joanne McClean took up post as Director of Public Health on 1 September 2022.

Joanne graduated from Queen's University in Medicine with Honours in 1999. After graduation Joanne worked in junior doctor hospital training posts before completing specialist training in public health medicine. Joanne has a Masters in Population Health and is a member of the Faculty of Public Health and of the Royal College of Physicians. Joanne was appointed as a Consultant in Public Health in the Public Health Agency in January 2012. In her consultant post Joanne had a particular interest in health service public health and in child health. Between June 2021 and August 2022 Joanne was seconded to the Department of Health as Associate Deputy Chief Medical Officer to work on the COVID response.

Joanne was made an Honorary Professor of Public Health Practice by Queen's University in February 2023.

**Heather Reid, Interim Director of Nursing, Midwifery and Allied Health Professionals, HSC Public Health Agency**



Heather Reid took up post as Interim Director of Nursing, Midwifery and Allied Health Professionals on 1st May 2023. Heather qualified as a nurse in September 1989 and worked as a staff nurse in a number of posts including a short period in a neuro-rehabilitation unit in Bavaria. Heather joined the Graduate Management training programme in 1994 during which she completed a Masters in Health Service Management. Heather joined the Public Health Department in the Eastern Health and Social Services Board in 1996 as a project manager for evidence-based commissioning and during this time worked towards specialist practitioner registration with the UK Public Health Register. She was then seconded to the Department of Health in 2008-09 to support the establishment of the Public Health Agency.

Heather was appointed as a Public Health Consultant in the Public Health Agency in January 2012. She worked in health service public health on a range of areas and has a specific interest in maternal, child and perinatal mortality surveillance and improvement.

**Dr Petra Corr, Director of Mental Health, Learning Disability and Community Well Being Services and Consultant Clinical Psychologist**



Dr Petra Corr is Director of Mental Health, Learning Disability and Community Well Being Services and is a Consultant Clinical Psychologist. Since qualifying from Queen's University Belfast in 1994, Petra has worked as a Clinical Psychologist in Learning Disability and Mental Health Services and has particular expertise in relation to models of community treatment services. Having managed Occupational Health and Well Being Services over recent years in NHSCT, she has an interest and focus on staff health and wellbeing. Throughout the early surges of Covid 19, Petra led on the regional approaches to support staff wellbeing across HSCNI.

Petra has led on the development of IMPACT Research Centre – a cutting edge psychological and mental health consortium. This is a collaboration between local universities, Institute of Mental Health Services, NICRN MH Network and NHSCT.

Petra previously held the role of Psychology Advisor to the Chief Medical Officer and provided psychological advice on a range of areas including the Regional Muckamore Assurance Group, the Regional Obesity Management Steering Group and the Advisory Group on the Enhanced Primary Care Teams. As an Honorary Lecturer at Queen's University of Belfast she has contributed to the training of the Clinical Psychology Workforce.

### **Professor Sultan Mahmud, Healthcare Director, BT**



Sultan is the newly appointed Director of Healthcare for BT's Enterprise unit. He is an experienced executive with a passion for digital innovation and has had a distinguished career in the NHS spanning two decades.

Prior to this role Sultan was Chief of Innovation, Integration and Research at The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust (RWT). He led pioneering work in integration across the care spectrum in primary, community and acute care and developed some of the most impactful live clinical datasets at a place-based level.

Sultan is enthusiastic about care providers working collaboratively and using digitally enabled methods to manage patient care in an anticipatory way. To this end, he has worked closely to develop partnerships with the commercial sector, patient groups and clinical teams to enable evidence-based innovation. In addition to his day job, he supports clinical teams to lead authentically and break down cultural barriers to enable anticipatory care and digital transformation.

In 2018 he was chosen as one of the 100 vibrant faces of the UK economy by Grant Thornton and in 2019 Sultan joined the Advisory Board of the Centre for Health and Social Care Leadership at the HSMC, University of Birmingham. He is also a guest lecturer at the University of Keele and is a visiting Professor at Birmingham City University. In 2021 Sultan was joined the Innovation Board at the Centre for the New Midlands think tank.

### **Kevin McEnoy, BT Health Sector Manager NI**



I am delighted once again to be involved in this year's NICON Conference as a headline Strategic Partner.

Under the leadership of the new Health Minister, the Health Service in NI continues to face exceptional challenges, with a stated focus on Stabilisation, Reform, and Delivery. At BT, we are committed to helping overcome these challenges with cutting-edge technologies, solutions, and services that enable real-time, data-driven decision making and collaboration. By innovating together with our customers and partners, we have the ambition to help transform healthcare delivery with better outcomes and experiences for patients and staff while creating a sustainable model for the future.

This year we are pleased to be joined at the conference by expert contributors from BT: Dr. Nicola Millard, our Principal Innovation Partner, and Professor Sultan Mahmud, our Director of Healthcare. We look forward to them sharing their perspectives on the future of work and learning from other technology and innovation initiatives in the health sector across the UK.

It will be great to see you and connect again at this year's conference.

### **Anne O'Reilly, Chair, Northern HSC Trust**



Anne was appointed as Northern Health and Social Care Trust Chair on 1 May 2023. Prior to this Anne was a Non-Executive Director with the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust and the NI Social Care Council. In her role in Belfast Trust Anne chaired the Social Care Committee, with a governance role in respect of the Trust's Corporate Parent responsibilities and wider statutory duties. Anne also took a lead role on Personal and Public Involvement and Carers. At the NI Social Care Council Anne chaired the workforce development group.

Anne is also a Foster Carer.

Anne joins the Northern Trust with a long track record of work in the voluntary sector, primarily at Chief Executive level, and currently works, in a voluntary capacity, with a women's' sector organisation. In 2015 Anne was awarded an OBE for services to older people and voluntary sector.

### **Jennifer Welsh, Chief Executive, Northern Health and Social Care Trust**



Jennifer Welsh was appointed Chief Executive of the Northern Health and Social Care Trust on 21 July 2020. Prior to this she was Director of Operations and Deputy Chief Executive from 1 December 2017 – 31 March 2020, and Interim Chief Executive from 1 April 2020.

Jennifer has been a Director within Northern Ireland's Health & Social Care Services since 2005, and has significant experience in operational management, service and capital planning, capital development as well as a strong track record on safety, quality and governance.

Jennifer has a strong background in research, developing partnerships between academia and clinical service, and has retained a strong interest in the benefits that this, as well as innovation and quality improvement, can bring to patients and clients.

### **Neil Guckian, Chief Executive, Western HSC Trust**



Neil Guckian took up post as Chief Executive on 1 July 2021. Mr Guckian previously held the position of Director of Finance and Contracting in the Trust.

Neil was Director of Finance and Estates in South-Eastern Trust for 10 years and became Interim Chief Executive of SE Trust in April 2019 for 3 months. Prior to this, he was Director of Finance for 11 years in the Northern Trust area, including a period as Deputy Chief Executive of Causeway Trust. Neil worked in the Western Area from 1991-1995.

### **Maria McIlgorm, Chief Nursing Officer for Northern Ireland, Department of Health NI**



Maria McIlgorm was appointed Chief Nursing Officer for Northern Ireland in March 2022 having recently worked as a professional advisor within the Scottish Government.

Maria has extensive leadership, management and strategic experience working across a range of acute and community settings within Health and Social care in England and Scotland.

### **Mike Farrar CBE, FRCGP, FRCP, Dip.H.Ed, BA Hons, Independent Consultant**



Mike is a highly respected management consultant with 13 years of CEO experience in the NHS. Mike is a senior advisor to the PwC Public Sector Health practice on healthcare leadership. He also leads a successful independent consultancy, working with global, corporate and public sector clients.

He remains a prominent thought leader on health care internationally and in the UK, supporting system leaders including in Northern Ireland, Yorkshire, North East, Greater Manchester and London. His work crosses sectors into the pharmaceuticals, medical technology and digital industries where his clients rank amongst the largest in the world alongside small local innovative start ups.

Mike was the CEO of the NHS Confederation, North West Strategic Health Authority and Head of Primary Care at the Department of Health. where he successfully negotiated the radical GP contract. He also served as the Chair of the first ever NHS Innovations in Life Sciences Delivery Board that laid

the foundation for the 'Innovation Health and Wealth Report' and the consequent establishment of AHSNs.

He also works in the charitable sector and in sport, where he has held roles including Chair and Interim Chair of Sport England, Swim England, and as National Tsar for Sport and Health.

He was awarded the CBE in 2005 for services to the NHS and is an Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of GPs and of the Royal College of Physicians.

Mike was recently appointed as the ProChancellor and Chair of Keele University in England and as the chair of ukactive, the national body for the UK leisure, fitness and physical activity industry.

During the COVID-19 Crisis and Recovery, Mike worked between March and July 2020 on a pro bono basis as the Acting Deputy CEO at Kings College Hospital NHSFT in London.

#### **Lord Victor Adebawale, Chair, NHS Confederation**



Lord Victor Adebawale became chair of the NHS Confederation in April 2020. Before this, he was CEO of Turning Point, a social enterprise providing health and social care interventions to approximately 100,000 people on an annual basis. Victor is also chair of Social Enterprise UK, co-founder and chair of Visionable UK Ltd, and founding chair of Collaborative CIC. He is founder and director of Leadership in Mind and a non-executive director at the Co-Operative Group. Victor is the founding vice chair of the NHS Race and Health Observatory and has been since 2021. He also became chair of IPPR in 2024.

Victor served for 6 years as a Non-Executive Director on the board of NHS England. He has chaired a number of commission reports into: policing; employment; mental health; housing and fairness for The London Fairness Commission; the Metropolitan Police; and for central and local government, and more recently (in 2023 and 2024) has been a joint chair of the BMJ Health Commission. He was awarded a CBE for services to the unemployed and homeless people and became a crossbench peer in 2001.

Victor is a visitor at St Catherine's College Oxford and Visiting Professor at the University of Lincoln.

He is an honorary fellow at the Royal College of Psychiatry and the Royal College of GPs. In Sept 2023, Victor was awarded the Outstanding Contribution to Public Health Award and become an honorary fellow at the Royal Society of Public Health.

Victor has an MA in Advanced Organisational Consulting from Tavistock Institute and City University.

### **Aidan Dawson Chief Executive, Public Health Agency**



Aidan was appointed Chief Executive of the Public Health Agency on 1 July 2021. He comes with a career spanning over 30 years working in the Health Service and 3rd sector.

In 2016 Aidan was appointed as the Director of Specialist Hospitals & Women's Health in Belfast Health and Social Care Trust. He was responsible for a diverse range of services including Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick children, Maternity Services, Gynaecology Services, ENT, Trauma and Orthopaedics, Neuro Rehabilitation, Sexual and Reproductive health, Regional Disablement Services and the Dental Hospital.

In April 2019 he also assumed responsibility for Mental Health Services for adults and children across the Trust on an interim basis. In 2020 the Mental Health role expanded to include the Mental Health Capacity Act Compliance.

Prior to this role Aidan was the Co-Director in the Trust for Trauma, Orthopaedics, and Rehabilitation Services. His career has included roles working with The British Red Cross and Disability Action.

### **Mike Nesbitt MLA, Minister of Health**



Health Minister Mike Nesbitt was appointed Minister of Health for Northern Ireland on 29 May 2024. Mr Nesbitt previously served as the Assembly Private Secretary to the Health Minister.

Before his appointment as Minister, Mr Nesbitt represented the Ulster Unionist Party on the NI Policing Board and Economy Committee. He was also party leader from 2012 to 2017, having been first elected as an MLA in 2011. Mr Nesbitt is a former broadcaster, private sector CEO, and Commissioner for Victims and Survivors.



**Patricia Higgins, Chief Executive, NI Social Care Council**



Patricia Higgins, a registered social worker, has been a Director within the Northern Ireland Social Care Council for 20 years (since 2002) and took up post as Chief Executive in 2022.

Under Patricia's leadership, the organisation was awarded the Investors in People Platinum accreditation in 2024 and remains the only Health and Social Care organisation in NI with the gold award in Investors in People 'We Invest In Wellbeing'. Patricia is a constant driver for change in social work and social care and is recognised as a compassionate and dynamic leader

**Claire Humphrey, Barnardo's NI Children's Services Manager and THRiVE Co-ordinator/  
Department of Education RAISE**



THRiVE is a collaboration of parents, community groups, voluntary and statutory organisations working together towards strategic configuration of services and systems for children, parents, schools and community. It promotes a whole community, collective impact approach to improving aspiration, attainment, and well-being outcomes. Claire Humphrey co-ordinates the THRiVE collaboration in Newtownabbey with Barnardo's NI. Claire has 25 years' experience in managing early intervention, integrated family support services in communities impacted by poverty areas and working in a range of community collaborations. She has been working to share evidence and learning from THRiVE about collective impact, place-based approaches across the wider system in NI.

**Brian Duggan, Strategic Partnership Policy Director, Association of British Pharmaceutical Industry**



Brian Duggan is the Strategic Partnership Policy Director for the Association of British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI) and is responsible for building strategic relationships across the sector to improve the UK's ability to generate, attract and benefit from biomedical innovation. Prior to joining the ABPI Brian worked for NHS England, as Chief of Staff for the National Medical Director, Professor Stephen Powis, having previously held the roles of Head of Medicines Policy and Senior Strategy & Policy Advisor supporting EU Exit and Covid response for medicines

**Dr Ruth Gray, Assistant Director in Quality Improvement and Innovation, South Eastern HSC Trust**



Dr Ruth Gray is Assistant Director for Quality Improvement and Innovation in SEHSCT. Ruth has 20 years' experience in healthcare in prison as the clinical lead for prison dentistry and leading the public health and health engagement work. Ruth's focus is applying population health and coproduction principles to healthcare provision. She has extensive research experience and is interested in the interface of public health and quality improvement to build evidence base and challenge health inequity. She is tasked with implementing the Quality 4 All Strategy in SEHSCT and creating the conditions for innovation through partnership.

Ruth sits on the exec committee of the National Association of Prison Dentistry and on the European Federation of Prison Health. She was awarded the Fellowship through Distinction by the Faculty of Public Health in June 24.

**Eileen Mullan, Chair, Southern Health and Social Care Trust**



Eileen was appointed Chair of the Board of the Southern Health and Social Care Trust in December 2020. Her background includes leadership roles across the community, voluntary, public and private sectors which has been steeped in public service.

Eileen is a powerhouse in advocating for diversity, inclusion and is a champion for change. She is founder of Boardroom Apprentice, an initiative that enables and empowers the next generation of decision makers to take their seat at the board table.

**Dr Nicola Millard, Futurologist - Principal Innovation Partner, BT**



Nicola is our Principal Innovation Partner. She's a presenter, writer and researcher on people-centred innovation in customer experience, digital workplace and the future of work within BT.

She's had a long and varied career with BT – mostly based at Adastral Park in the East of England.

Nicola has done a range of roles, including futurology, research, usability, customer service, marketing, and business consulting. She was involved with a number of BT firsts, including the first application of artificial intelligence into our call centres, our initial experiments with home working, and helping to develop our "net easy" score; a new way of measuring customer experience. She currently looks at innovation in both employee and customer experience.

Nicola is an award-winning presenter, with two TED talks and hundreds of conference panel, chair and keynote sessions under her belt. She occasionally pops up on radio and TV around the world, including appearances on 'Woman's Hour', 'Tech Tent', 'The Genius of Invention and Back in Time for the Weekend' for the BBC. In 2019, she was listed as one of the top 10 UK CX Influencers by Customer Experience Magazine.

Nicola got her PhD from Lancaster University in 2005 and has authored over 50 publications – including one book and numerous book chapters.

### **Michele Larmour, Chair, Northern Ireland Ambulance Service (NIAS)**



Mrs Michele Larmour is a leadership consultant and international strategic police advisor, successfully contributing to reform in Mongolia, the Balkans, Ireland and North Africa, to clients facing critical leadership challenges during transformational change. She is an Associate Assessor with the College of Policing, UK and an Associate Leadership Coach with Queens University, Belfast.

Mrs Larmour is the Chair of the NI Ambulance Service and the Police Rehabilitation and Retraining Trust and is a Board member of the Washington Ireland Programme.

Mrs Larmour is an experienced executive leader, with over 31 years' service in UK policing, leaving in 2017 as Assistant Chief Constable, in England's second largest force, West Midlands Police, having significantly contributed to one of the largest UK policing transformations. Previously she served over 28 years policing Northern Ireland. She has a BSc (Hons) Degree, graduated top performer on the UK Strategic Command Course and has completed the FBI Law Enforcement Executive Leadership Programme.

### **Dr Aideen Keaney, Director of HSCQI, Public Health Agency**



Aideen took up post as Director of Quality Improvement (QI) in the PHA in September 2019.

Aideen is a Scottish Patient Safety Programme Fellow, a Health Foundation Generation Q Fellow and has a Masters in Leadership and Quality Improvement. Aideen is also a member of the Health Foundation Q Community and a member of the Q Community Board.

Aideen is a graduate of Queens University Belfast Medical School and is a Fellow of the College of Anaesthetists (RCSI) Dublin.

Prior to taking up her post in the PHA Aideen worked as a Consultant in Paediatric Anaesthesia and Paediatric Intensive Care for many years. During this time Aideen also held a number of Medical Leadership roles. Aideen has always been a strong advocate for patient

safety and has a track record of leading improvement initiatives in the clinical care setting.

As Director of QI, Aideen leads the on-going design and development of the new HSC Quality Improvement and Innovation Network (HSCQI). The focus of HSCQI is to share learning and support system-wide scale and spread of best practice. Aideen has led the development of a 3-year HSCQI Strategy “Moving Forward Shaping the Journey” and ensures that the workplan of HSCQI is aligned with this strategy and with regional priorities.

### **Colin Coffey, Chair, Public Health Agency**



Colin took up post as Chair of the Public Health Agency on 1 November 2023. His professional career was within the Agri-Food sector where he held many senior Board positions with UK Companies.

Colin is an experienced Chair and currently holds a portfolio of Non-Executive Chair and Director positions in both the public and private sectors. These include Chair at the AgriFood & BioSciences Institute, Non-Executive Director at InvestNI where he is Chair of their Business Funding Committee and a member of their Audit & Risk Committee. He is also Chair at Natural World Products, an organics company targeting sustainable climate-focused solutions that will address key structural

problems within Northern Ireland to deliver positive outcomes for our environment

Colin has extensive experience of increasing Shareholder value and better governance using a mix of leadership skills, practical experience, risk management as well as acting as a mentor to the board members. He is particularly interested in the development of leadership skills that will lead to more effective and sustainable organisations.

Colin is a Chartered Director and Fellow of the Institute of Directors and is an experienced assessor for the IoD in their Chartered Director programme.

### **Ciaran Mulgrew , Chairman, Belfast HSC Trust**



Mr Ciaran Mulgrew became Chairman of Belfast Trust on 06 April 2023.

Ciaran Mulgrew, a native of Andersonstown, west Belfast, became Chairman of Belfast Trust on 06 April 2023.

He has, for the past 25 years, been the Managing Director and owner operator of Niche Drinks Co. Ltd, a successful alcoholic drinks manufacturer and marketer based on Derry’s Waterside. The business was sold to MGP Luxco, a US-based plc. in 2021.

Mr Mulgrew was educated at Queen’s University, Belfast and has a Master’s degree from Napier University, Edinburgh. Whilst based in the north-west, he previously served as a non-executive director of Londonderry Port and Harbour Commission; Altnagelvin Hospital

Trust; and the Western Health and Social Care Trust.

He is also currently a non-executive director of Invest Northern Ireland.

#### **Julian Hunt, Partner Health Sector Lead, PWC**



Partner, UK Health Services Sector leader, PwC United Kingdom Julian is our UK Health Services Sector leader providing support to both NHS and private sector health clients.

He is an experienced partner, with over 25 years' experience, at the forefront of innovative next-generation healthcare transformation enabled by complex digital and data integration to drive improvements in experience, cost and clinical outcomes.

#### **Dr Michael Quinn, Clinical Lecturer/Consultant, QUB**



Dr Michael Quinn is a Nephrologist and Informatician at QUB with postgraduate training in digital health, epidemiology and law.

He has worked as a CCIO at trust and regional level and has authored & co-authored a number of Northern Ireland's data strategy documents - including the recent review of cancer data in NI.

Having been involved at the beginning of the journey he now chairs Northern Ireland's Information and Governance Advisory Council for the encompass programme. He also builds software designed to improve transparency in care delivery and passionately believes that patient held healthcare data can dramatically improve care delivery in NI if we involve our citizens more in the decisions.

### **Mark McCarey, Chief Executive NIMDTA**



Mark was appointed to the role of Chief Executive of NIMDTA on 1 October 2020, and subsequently to the Chief Executive post with effect from 1 April 2021.

Mark originally joined NIMDTA in 2009 in the role of Senior Governance, IT and Facilities Manager and provided leadership to NIMDTA at a Senior Management Committee and Board level.

Mark lives in County Antrim with his wife and three children. Interests outside of work are reading, running, and armchair sport appreciation with a particular interest in rugby and cricket. He is also a Trustee of a registered charity which is based in Belfast.

### **Donna Traynor, Broadcaster**



Donna is one of Ireland's most recognised and respected public figures with a broadcasting career spanning more than three decades.

After working as a journalist at RTÉ, Donna moved to BBC Northern Ireland. She is best known as presenter of its award-winning "BBC Newsline" television programme.

Throughout her time in that role, Donna fronted coverage of some of the biggest landmark events in our political and societal history. These included the funeral of the football legend George Best, the Titanic centenary commemoration, the state visit to Ireland of Queen Elizabeth II, the Easter Rising centenary and The Open golf championship at Royal Portrush.

Donna also reached a global audience with her cameo roles in the highly successful Channel 4/Netflix series "Derry Girls".

With her approachable personality and versatility, Donna is a popular choice to host conferences and award ceremonies for the public, voluntary and private sectors.

Along with her husband and business partner Ronan Kelly, Donna provides training in media performance and public speaking.

**Mr Niall McGonigle, NI Director, Royal College of Surgeons of England/NI Representative on the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges**



Mr McGonigle qualified from The Queen's University of Belfast in 1999. He completed his training in Cardiothoracic surgery in 2011 and was appointed as a Consultant Thoracic surgeon to the prestigious Harefield Hospital, London. In 2017, he returned to his native Belfast. He has taken such roles as Lead for Thoracic Surgery, Chair of the Lung Cancer Clinical Reference Group (NICAN), Training Programme Director for Core Surgery and Deputy Head of School for Surgery (NIMTDA). He became Northern Ireland Director of the Royal College of Surgeons of England in September 2023. He works with various charities including Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation and is a member of the Clinical Expert Panel for Mesothelioma UK.

**Peter Toogood, Deputy Secretary for Social Care Policy, Department of Health NI**



Peter Toogood is the Deputy Secretary for Social Care and Public Health Policy within the Department of Health and has over 30 years' experience working across the public and private sectors. He joined the Northern Ireland Civil Service in 2010, holding a range of senior finance and policy roles within the Department of Health and The Executive Office. In his current role, he is leading significant reform programmes across adult and children's social care services, mental health and learning disability and population health. Peter trained as a chartered accountant in a 'big six' accountancy firm and worked for over 10 years in both their Belfast and New York offices, providing a range of transaction advisory services to large national and multinational organisations.

**Barry Macaulay BEM, CEO/Artistic Director, Arts Care**



Barry Macaulay BEM is CEO/Artistic Director of Arts Care whom he joined from Stroke Association in 2022 where he was the NI Director. Barry has over 25 years' experience in the field of health and social care and disability, initially as a Social Worker and then as Senior Manager in the Third sector with RNIB and Stroke Association. He was granted a British Empire Medal in 2019 for his contribution to Disability Sport in Northern Ireland. Barry is a musician and is no stranger to Arts Care having performed as a volunteer at numerous Arts Care sessions and events for over 15 years before taking up the CEO position. Barry is a founding member of the Creative Health Network NI.

**Emma DeSouza, Founder and Co-facilitator, The Civic Initiative**



Emma DeSouza is the founder and co-facilitator of deliberative democracy platform The Civic Initiative, Director of the Northern Ireland Emerging Leaders Program at the National Committee on American Foreign Policy, and a transatlantic adviser on peace processes and civic innovation. Prior to the Civic initiative she led in the creation of the first All-island Women's Forum within the National Women's Council, serving as Chair and Facilitator (2021-22). As a journalist, Emma writes for several publications including the Guardian, Irish Times, Irish News, and Byline Times.

**Gavin Quinn, Head of the Regional Mental Health Service, Department of Health NI**



Gavin Quinn was appointed as Head of the Regional Mental Health on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024, having previously held the roles of interim Mental Health Director and Head of Children and Adolescent Mental health Unit within the Department of Health.

In his current role, Gavin is responsible for leading on the establishment of the new Regional Mental Health Service, which will provide people across Northern Ireland with equitable access to high quality, regionally consistent, but locally based mental health services, working across primary and secondary mental healthcare and with the full integration of the community and voluntary sector.

Prior to joining the Department of Health, Gavin worked in senior roles in the public and community and voluntary sectors, where he successfully led and delivered programmes and services across a broad range of areas including health, youth justice, and education.



### **Liz Kimmins MLA, Chair, NI Assembly Committee for Health**



**Liz Kimmins** is a Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) representing Newry and Armagh for Sinn Féin. Liz was first elected in January 2020 and re-elected in May 2022. Liz is currently the Chairperson of the Assembly Committee for Health and is also Sinn Féin spokesperson for health.

### **Keith McBride, Committee Clerk, NI Assembly Committee for Health**



**Keith McBride** is the Clerk to the NI Assembly Committee for Health. Keith has worked in the Northern Ireland Assembly since 2007, having previously worked in the NI Civil Service. Keith has worked in a number of procedural roles in the NI Assembly and took up his post as Clerk of the Committee for Health in January 2021.

### **William Nicholson, Independent Arts and Health Consultant and Convenor of the Northern Ireland Creative Health Network**



An experienced Independent Arts, Health and Wellbeing Consultant deeply passionate about the role that arts, culture and creativity can play in improving people's health and wellbeing. Will has relocated to Northern Ireland from London in 2022 and is initiating the development of the Northern Ireland Creative Health Network having established and experienced the benefits of similar initiatives in England.

Will has been involved in a wide range of arts and health work from local to national level in the UK including; supporting the development of a Creative Health Toolkit for Integrated Care Systems for the UK National Centre for Creative Health, developing arts and health strategies for the Greater London Authority, Southwark Council and King's College London and facilitating a culture and social prescribing conference in partnership with King's College London and The Science Gallery and a Museum's and Mental Health event for the Baring Foundation. Will is co-founder of the Southwark Culture Health and Wellbeing Partnership, one of the first place-based creative health networks and strategic approaches to arts

and health in a local authority area. Will also recently facilitated a session at the 2023 annual national arts and health gathering led by Réalta, the National Body for Arts + Health in Ireland.

Outside of Arts and Health, Will is the Convenor of A Better Way, a UK-wide cross sector network of 1,500 senior leaders committed to a fairer society through transforming services and system change; recently working as a learning partner for NHS England and 16 Integrated Care Board's on better partnership working with people and communities. He is a Chartered Accountant and trustee of several charities including the Northern Ireland Mental Health and Arts Festival and Chair of STEPS Mental Health.

### **Jenny Kirkwood, Music Therapist, British Association for Music Therapy/Public Health Agency**



Jenny is an Allied Health Professional working in a diverse Public Health AHP role involving Northern Ireland-wide service improvement projects, currently in children's emotional health and wellbeing. Varied experience of delivering, managing and improving services and broad knowledge of public health, population health, and the social determinants of health.

Jenny is a Music Therapist by background and is passionate about the growth of the Arts Therapies and Arts-in-Health in Northern Ireland, and with 12 years previous experience in the third sector providing and managing music therapy services in learning disability, mental health, child development, emotional and behavioural support and paediatric palliative care in a range of health, education and community settings. She is a Trustee of the British Association for Music Therapy, current Chair of the Allied Health Professions Federation for Northern Ireland, and member of Belfast City Council's 'Belfast Region Music Board'.

### **Dr Johnny Cash, Consultant Hepatologist and Chief Clinical Information Officer, Belfast HSC Trust**



Dr Johnny Cash is a consultant hepatologist and current chief clinical information officer for Belfast trust. He has a long record of change management and service improvement having founded the ambulatory care centre in BHSC. He was formerly assistant medical director for continuous improvement in Belfast trust and was awarded the IHM medical leader of the year in 2013. He has recently led on the implementation of the encompass programme within Belfast and continues to work with colleagues across the region on this project and other digital transformation programmes.

**Rebecca Walsh, Design Director, Big Motive**



Rebecca is Design Director and Service Design Lead at Big Motive and a Chartered Mechanical Engineer (IMechE). She holds an MEng (Hons) Aerospace Engineering from Queen's University Belfast and brings ten years of experience in user-centred design and service innovation to her role at Big Motive.

Beginning her career in Bombardier Aerospace working exclusively in aerodynamic design, Rebecca joined Bombardier's innovation team to work on future aircraft design. She also worked with the Department of Finance Innovation Lab as the first Service Designer in the Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS) working across all regional government departments as well as local Government to promote service design and in particular user-centred design and design for citizens' needs.

Rebecca is responsible for the delivery of high-quality experience design projects for a range of Big Motive's clients. Using her wealth of knowledge and expertise, she also delivers an interactive design-led module for the MBA programme at Queen's University.

**Linda McRandle, Senior Programme Manager, Digital Health and Care NI, Department of Health NI**



With over 30 years' experience working across multiple sectors, supporting operational teams to adopt digital solution to improve how they deliver their services., Linda seeks to put people at the heart of how services are designed while maximising the potential of evolving technologies.

**Gillian Sommerville, Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development**



Gillian was appointed as Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development in September 2023. She has over 30 years' experience working in Human Resources & Organisational Development. She is an experienced FCIPD HR professional with a proven track record of operating at a senior and board level in a number of fast moving and dynamic environments. Gillian is passionate about improving staff health and wellbeing and driving forward staff and leadership development and has a history of improving staff engagement.

**Danny Moore, Strategic Account Director, Novartis**



Danny joined Novartis in 2019. Currently working as the Field Market Access Director in the UK. Prior to joining Novartis Danny spent 20 years in a range of commercial and market access positions across the industry. He is passionate about collaborating with the NHS to improve the patient journey & outcomes. His areas of focus are innovative medicines launch, strategic partnerships, and operational delivery. Danny was a member of the Lipid Management Programme Board, co-chairing the Lipid Management Delivery Oversight Group and chairing the Delivery Models ‘task and finish’ group as part of the tri-partite programme with NHSE/AAC.

Danny has been married for 18 years is the father of two girls, is a keen music and sports enthusiast – still playing in a failing rock band, plus enjoying football each week.

**Tim Bergin, People Consulting Partner, EY**



Tim is a Partner in People Consulting and Innovation Lead for Ireland. Tim has played a lead role in the phenomenal growth of the People Consulting practice over the last number of years. He has led the development of new practice areas to tackle key client challenges such as Strategic Workforce Planning and People Experience.

He has led large people transformation programmes across a range of clients in government and health, utilities and the private sector.

Prior to joining EY, Tim lived in the UK where he worked as a transformation consultant across a variety of industries in a range of geographies including North America, Europe and Asia.

Tim is a psychologist by background, holding a Masters in Occupational Psychology and is a qualified coach. He is also a former professional rugby player.

**Karen Hargan, HR Director, Western HSC Trust**



Karen Hargan joined the Trust as Director of Human Resources and Organisation Development on 17 May 2021. Karen has over 30 years’ experience in HR across the public and private sectors having held a number of senior roles in health, local government, policing and manufacturing.

Karen started her career in the private sector with Desmond and Sons Ltd, a supplier to Marks and Spencer. Karen spent 18 years in a range of HR and training roles and led the HR function for five years across NI, the

UK and overseas operations in Turkey and Sri Lanka.

Following years as an independent HR Consultant, and roles in the public sector and local government, Karen joined the Business Services Organisation (BSO) in 2018 as Director of HR and Corporate Services. In September 2019 she made the move back to a Trust joining the Northern Trust as Director of HR, OD and Corporate Communications.

Karen is a graduate of Ulster University and a Chartered Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development. She is married with three grown up children and two grandchildren.

#### **Paula McHugh, Arts in Health Manager, Belfast HSC Trust**



Paula McHugh is an experienced arts manager with a background in music. Paula has worked in the field of arts engagement and wellbeing throughout her career, including work in music, visual arts, dance and literature with Ulster Orchestra, Belfast Festival at Queen's and Moving on Music.

She took up her current role as Arts in Health Manager in Belfast Trust in 2014, when the post was established, following the launch of the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust's first Arts in Health Strategy in 2013. In the intervening years, the Belfast Trust Arts in Health Programme has developed to include programmes of work across over 30 services working with patients, service users, staff, carers and families.

#### **Helen Moore, Director of Performance, Planning and Informatics, South Eastern HSC Trust**



Helen Moore is a Registered Nurse with over 28 years' experience of working in Health & Social Care in Northern Ireland. She was recently appointed Director of Planning, Performance & Informatics at the South Eastern Trust in 2022. This position has responsibility for providing specialist advice and strategic leadership to deliver high quality planning, performance management and informatics services to deliver safe, high quality, compassionate care to our local population. Prior to this Helen held the role of Assistant Director of Performance, Improvement and Commissioning.

**Leslie-Anne Newton, Director, ARC NI**



Leslie-Anne leads the ARC Northern Ireland Office.

Leslie-Anne takes an active lead in our advocacy work. She organises and takes part in meetings that look at the big problems faced by our sector. She helps people work together to identify solutions. Leslie-Anne voices the views and experiences of the learning disability community. She makes sure decision makers know the impact of their decisions, presenting the people and stories behind the numbers.

**Dr Peter Sloan, Director of Mental Health and Learning Disability, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust**

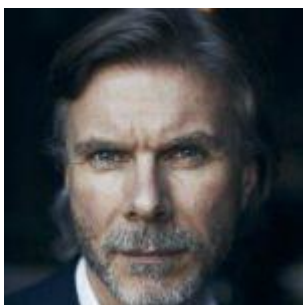


Peter took up post as Interim Director for Mental Health, Intellectual Disability and Psychological Services in December 2022.

Prior to this, he held a variety of medical management roles within the Directorate, including Clinical Director for Community & Partnership Services, Clinical Director for Acute Mental Health Services, Chair of Division for Mental Health and Chair of Division for Intellectual Disability Services.

Peter is a Consultant Perinatal Psychiatrist and continues to practice clinically in the Perinatal Mental Health Team, based at Knockbracken Healthcare Park.

**Professor Tony Young, Chief Clinical Innovation Officer, NHS England**



Tony is a practising frontline NHS surgeon, Associate Medical Director at the Mid and South Essex University Hospitals Group, Director of Medical Innovation at Anglia Ruskin University, and has founded 4 Med-Tech start-ups. He has also co-founded the £500 million Anglia Ruskin MedTech Campus.

In 2014 he was appointed as National Clinical Director for Innovation at NHS England and in February 2016 became the first National Clinical Lead for Innovation. In this role he provides clinical leadership and support in delivering improved health outcomes in England and drives the uptake of proven innovations across the NHS, promotes economic growth through innovation and helps make the NHS the go to place on the planet for medical innovation. In 2015 he founded the NHS Clinical Entrepreneur programme. This has become the world's largest entrepreneurial workforce development programme for clinicians and under the NHS Long Term Plan is set for a major expansion to include intrapreneurs.

In the 2019 New Year's Honours list Tony was awarded the OBE for services to clinical leadership.

**Dr Lloyd Humphreys, Managing Director, Cogniss**



Dr Lloyd Humphreys is the Managing Director of Cogniss - the world's first no-code platform for digital health. By training, Lloyd is a Clinical Psychologist with a business degree from the European School of Management and Technology in Berlin. He has founded several companies and has helped others to scale disruptive technologies within healthcare, from personal health records to digital therapeutics, digital health formularies and now digital health app creation. Through this work, he has been acknowledged as one of the Top 100 Health Tech Influencers and also recognised by the National Health Service for his involvement in bringing innovative technology solutions to the market through being awarded one of the first NHS Innovation Accelerator (NIA) Fellowships.

**Thea Stein, Chief Executive, Nuffield Trust**



Thea Stein is the Chief Executive of the Nuffield Trust. She took up the post in September 2023.

Thea was previously Chief Executive at Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust, and before then Chief Executive of Carers Trust, Yorkshire Forward and North East Leeds Primary Care Trust. Thea has also held a number of non-executive roles in housing organisations and academia. Thea was a trustee of the Nuffield Trust between 2019 and 2023.

**Margaret O'Hagan, Director for Transformation & Improvement, Southern HSC Trust**



Margaret has recently been appointed as Director of Transformation and Improvement in the Southern Health and Social Care Trust.

Margaret has a wealth of experience as an operational manager. She has undertaken a number of management roles delivering the full range of acute hospital services and has built extensive knowledge and skill as well as a significant network in doing so. In 2013, Margaret was appointed as Director of Acute Services in the Northern Health and Social Care Trust, then following a reorganisation in 2016, became the Director of Surgery and Clinical Services.

In May 2022, Margaret came to the Southern Trust on secondment to support the then ongoing Urology Lookback Review and provide support with the Trust's response to the Urology Services Inquiry.

Margaret is a nurse by profession and has worked in a number of professional roles in Health and Social Care including working for the Department of Health as a Nursing Advisor for secondary care and cancer services. Margaret is also an alumni of the Health Foundation haven undertaken a Leadership Fellowship with the Health Foundation in the past.

### **Dr Jeanette Dickson, Chair, Academy of Medical Royal Colleges**



Jeanette Dickson was elected as Chair of Council of the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges in July 2023. She remains a practising consultant clinical oncologist at the Mount Vernon Cancer Centre in Hertfordshire focusing primarily on thoracic malignancies and providing radiotherapy for patients with haematological conditions. She spent five years as clinical director at the centre.

Jeanette has a strong interest in postgraduate education, holding roles as clinical tutor and training programme director before being appointed as Head of School for Clinical Oncology for London and Kent, Surrey and Sussex in 2008. She remains an active GMC accredited clinical and educational supervisor as well as a trained consultant appraiser.

Jeanette first became involved with the Royal College of Radiologists (RCR) in 2010 through national recruitment and as a revalidation advisor. In 2013, she joined the officer team at the RCR as Medical Director for Professional Practice, Clinical Oncology and in 2016 became Vice President, Clinical Oncology. She served as President of the RCR from 2019 – 2022. Between July 2020 and August 2022, she was Vice Chair of the Academy with responsibility for the education portfolio.

Jeanette was lead for the lung cancer module of the Institute of Cancer Research (ICR) MSc in oncology, organising and delivering a comprehensive and up to date teaching programme annually between 2014 and 2022. She has been a Trustee of the Mount Vernon Postgraduate Charity since 2002. Between 2013 and 2015, she was a clinical Trustee of the Hospice of St Francis charity.

In 2020, Jeanette joined the clinical advisory group of the United Kingdom Lung Cancer Coalition (UKLCC). In 2022, she acted as special advisor to the Expert Panel of the Health and Care Select Committee evaluating the Government's commitments to cancer services in England.

### **Dan West, Chief Digital Information Officer, Department of Health NI**



Dan is an engineer by education, a technologist by trade, and is experienced in general management and corporate governance in both private and public sectors. He is passionate about people and what makes them perform at their best, and in building high performing teams. He is interested in the relationship between human behaviour and technology, the ways that these two things can align to create better outcomes for people, and the skills needed to do this well. He has worked globally, building distributed teams across the UK, US and India – but is focused on the local community in which he lives and works.



He was awarded the DigitalLeaders Local Digital Leader of the Year for 2020 for Northern Ireland. He was recognised as the UK CIO100 #17 in 2021 and #8 in 2022.

He is currently the Chief Digital Information Officer at the Department of Health in Northern Ireland, seizing the opportunity to use data and technology to improve health and social care experiences and outcomes in the region, and to create an economically sustainable service for the next generation. The CDIO post is part of the Department of Health Executive Board, bringing accountability and leadership for Digital into the top management group and concentrating six key levers – strategy, policy, funding, governance, decision making and system-wide design. He had responsibility for the Digital response to the COVID-19 pandemic in Northern Ireland.

Previously Dan built over 20 years' experience of technology led transformation in central government and healthcare organisations around the world while working for Accenture, with the final 4 years as a Managing Director for the UK health business.

#### **Martina Moore, Programme Director, Integrated Care System NI, Department of Health NI**



Martina is currently Director of ICS NI in the Department of Health with responsibility for the development and implementation of the new Integrated Care System.

Previously as Director of Organisational Change, she led on the closure of the Health and Social Care Board and its migration to the Department of Health in March 2022.

Martina has extensive experience in organisational change having undertaken lead roles across a number of high-profile public-sector reform programmes including Brexit and the restructuring of the NICS.

#### **Dr Tomas Adell , Director for Elective Care and Cancer Policy, Department of Health NI**



Tomas joined the Department of Health (DoH) in December 2017. He is currently senior policy lead for development and implementation of Department of Health and NI Civil Service policies and guidelines relating to elective care and cancer policy, including 2 of 5 Ministerial priorities.

He has provided senior official oversight of designing business strategies to obtain short and long-term goals for improvement of healthcare in Northern Ireland.

Tomas has built key stakeholder relationships to facilitate improved understanding of the delivery of healthcare services and to endure efficient and effective transformation of healthcare services.

He directs day-to-day work of 4 direct line employees and around 30 staff in the wider team and motivates teams to exceed objectives.

Prior to the above role Tomas was the Senior lead official of Transformation across the health and social care sector in NI where he communicated to the wider NHS to assess current systems and facilitate transformation.

Tomas previously held the post of Principal Officer for Mental Health where he was policy lead for mental health and mental capacity in the DoH, which included leading on the supporting legislation and implementation of the Mental Capacity Act (NI) 2016.

### **David Wilson, Interim Head of Sustainability, Engineering and Estates Safety, Department of Health NI**



David is currently the interim Head of Sustainability, Engineering and Estates Safety in Health Estate Directorate Department of Health. David joined the Department of Health's Health Estates Investment Group in 2013. A Chartered Electrical Engineer by profession his career includes spells in both the private and public sector including healthcare engineering design energy management, and estates safety. In his current role he is the DoH's lead for climate change ensuring that the department fulfills its duties under the Climate Change Act (NI) 2022. Other responsibilities include decontamination policy, medical device technical safety, EU Medical Device Regulation liaison, engagement on NHS E technical guidance programme and management of the Northern Ireland Adverse Incident Centre for medical devices safety incidents.

### **Heather Monteverde MBE, Professional Advisor, Healthcare Policy Group, Department of Health NI**



Heather trained as a registered general nurse and a registered sick children's nurse at the North Down College of Nursing. Following this she completed training in oncology nursing at Belvoir Park Hospital. In 1986 she was appointed as the first Cancer Clinical Nurse Specialist for NI. Since then Heather has worked in leadership roles in the public, private and voluntary sectors successfully developing new and innovative services in primary and secondary care. She has played a major role in the development and writing of the NI Cancer Strategy and is currently working as a professional advisor in the Cancer Projects and Policy Team in the Department of Health.

Heather was awarded an MBE for services to cancer sufferers in 2012 and in 2018 was recognised as one of the 70 most influential nurses in the NHS over the last 70 years.

#### **Soo Hun, Innovation & Digital Eco-system Lead, Digital Health & Care NI**



Soo's role within Digital Health & Care NI (DHCNI) is to lead on Digital Innovation and development of collaboration opportunities within a wider Digital eco-system in HSCNI as outlined in the Digital Innovation Strategy.

Soo joined the HSCNI (Health & Social Care NI) in 2003 and has been involved in medium & large-scale digital health transformation and innovation in wide-ranging areas such as mental health, dementia, frailty, falls, post stroke rehabilitation, telehealth and telecare.

She has supported digital technology initiatives using mobile/web apps (see HSCNI <https://apps4healthcareni.hscni.net>), virtual reality, wearables as well as Artificial Intelligence.

#### **Ruby Jackson, Midwife and NHS Clinical Entrepreneur, Founder Melanatal**



Ruby is a newly qualified midwife with a strong commitment to addressing health inequities and driving change in maternity services. Black and Brown birthing people and neonates have some of the poorest outcomes and experiences within maternity services globally. As the founder of Melanatal, Ruby hopes to address this issue and is dedicated to improving representation within maternal and neonatal education. Melanatal equips students, clinicians, and families with the tools and knowledge to better recognise and respond to maternal and neonatal conditions, with the goal of improving health outcomes and experiences for Black and Brown mothers and babies. Passionate about health

equity, Ruby aims to create lasting change in the field of maternity care through implementing digital health solutions like Melanatal.

#### **Rodney Redmond, Head of Workforce Strategy, Department of Health NI**

Rodney joined the Department of Health in 2021 and has responsibility for overseeing development and implementation of the Health and Social Care Workforce Strategy 2026: Delivering for our People. Prior to taking up this post Rodney worked in a number of NI Departments as a government statistician with NISRA. This included six years as the statistician responsible for hospital waiting time and activity data in the Department of Health.