## **Borders, Boundaries & Bridges: Learning with our Neighbours**

An adult learning conference organised by the Northern Ireland Forum on Adult Learning and AONTAS

Skainos Centre, Belfast. Friday 12th October 2018





Forum for Adult Learning NI











#### Why this conference?

This will be a unique opportunity for those involved in adult learning in Northern Ireland to come together and to learn with our neighbours. Delegates will hear the latest from across the UK and Ireland on policy and practice relating to adult learning. The afternoon workshops will be very interactive and will identify issues for further action, local and/or national.

The conference will include contributions from all parts of the UK and Ireland including our partners the Learning & Work Institute (https://www.learningandwork.org. uk/), Ssfydliad Dysgu a Gwaith (http://www.learningandwork.wales/) and Scotland's Learning Partnership (http://scotlandslearning.org.uk/).

Delegates might find it useful to look through our report Healthy, Wealthy & Wise which will be referred to throughout the day. It can be downloaded at <a href="https://www.learningandwork.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/LW-EU-Report-April-2018-Final-Print-LRd.pdf">https://www.learningandwork.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/LW-EU-Report-April-2018-Final-Print-LRd.pdf</a>

#### Northern Ireland Impact Forum on Adult Learning

The Learning & Work Institute's (<a href="http://www.learningandwork.org.uk/our-work/promoting-learning-and-skills/europe-and-international">http://www.learningandwork.org.uk/our-work/promoting-learning-and-skills/europe-and-international</a>) approach to its coordination of the UK's contribution to the European Agenda for Adult Learning has been to enable the sharing of best practice within the four devolved administrations and between them. It therefore developed Impact Forums in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales in Autumn 2014. In Northern Ireland L&W's partner is the Forum for Adult Learning NI (FALNI), a voluntary coalition of practitioners from across the sectors.

The Forum seeks ongoing engagement with government departments, councils and elected representatives to make impact on policy, using the evidence of the report to demonstrate the effectiveness of adult learning as an enabler for many key desired outcomes of government.

#### **AONTAS**

AONTAS is the Irish National Adult Learning Organisation (<a href="https://www.aontas.com/">https://www.aontas.com/</a>). As an umbrella body committed to advocating and lobbying for the development of a quality service for adult learners and promoting the value and benefits of lifelong learning, AONTAS works on behalf of its almost 500 strong membership and regards them as a key resource which provides the organisation with a grassroots, authentic understanding of adult and community education practice and learner perspective. The membership profile comprises a rich mix of statutory, voluntary and community organisations involved in the provision of adult learning as well as individuals who are deeply involved in and committed to the concept and practice of lifelong learning. AONTAS provides a crucial platform for member organisations to share experience and best practice, promote their work and advocate on the value and necessity of adult and community education.

#### Programme for the Day

- 10.00 Registration
- 10.30 Welcome Trevor Neilands (Impact Forum Chair)
- 10.40 Get to know your neighbours
- 11.00 Presentations on current impact, political support, challenges faced and visions for the future of adult learning in each of the 5 'nations'
- 12.15 Buzz at tables
- 12.30 Panel Discussion
- 13.00 LUNCH
- 13.45 Workshops see below
- 15.00 Comfort break
- 15.10 Feedback
- 15.30 What next? UK, Ireland & N. Ireland perspectives
- 15.45 Close

#### Workshops

- **1. Adult Learning and Health & Wellbeing** presentations from Seamus Ward of the Bogside & Brandywell Health Forum on its work around social prescribing, and from David Hagendyk of Learning & Work Institute Wales on new duty of collaboration between public services, illustrated by projects from Gwent and Swansea.
- **2.** Adult Learning and the Economy presentations from Alex Stevenson (LWI) on its Citizens' Curriculum approach to basic skills which interlinks core capabilities and from Helen Chicot of Rochdale Council on the impact of running the Citizens Curriculum in some of its most deprived estates.
- **3. Adult Learning and Communities** presentations on AONTAS' Community Education Network and Scotland's Learners' Forum (nominated for National Democracy Week Awards this year) on how these voices for practitioners and learners were developed and what they add to campaigning for adult learning.

Registration closes on Friday 5th October. To register please do so via Eventbrite: <a href="https://www.eventbrite.com/e/borders-boundaries-bridges-learn-ing-with-our-neighbours-tickets-49852168177">https://www.eventbrite.com/e/borders-boundaries-bridges-learn-ing-with-our-neighbours-tickets-49852168177</a>

## Northern Ireland Impact Forum on Adult Learning Partners



Membership of the NI Impact Forum currently includes:









































The Forum's independent Chair is Trevor Neilands, former Principal of Northern Regional College.

The Forum can be contacted via its convenor, Colin Neilands: colin.neilands@communitus.co.uk

# **Annual Northern Ireland Economic Conference 2018**

Addressing economic challenges:

**BREXIT • LOW GROWTH • POOR PRODUCTIVITY** 

Thursday 8th November 2018 • Armagh City Hotel



Media partner



In association with





#### Northern Ireland's economic summit

The Northern Ireland Economic Conference, now in its 23rd year, is Northern Ireland's premier economic analysis event and is unique in being the only forum which takes a high level look at the performance of, and prospects for the local economy. It is firmly established as the annual autumn 'summit' for Northern Ireland's economic community, including policy makers and business leaders. Taking place at a time of unprecedented political chaos, this is a not to be missed event for all the latest information on the local economy as well as an excellent opportunity for networking and discussion with key players in the economy, across all sectors.

#### The lost decade

The 2018 conference comes at an economic cross-roads for the region. After a decade of no real growth in the economy, we face the challenge of Brexit and local political uncertainty against a backdrop of plummeting productivity. This year's conference will bring together a platform of expert speakers to look at these issues in depth and to give delegates some sense as to what the future might hold. The themes covered in the programme will include:

## ✓ The medium-term outlook for the Northern Ireland economy

A highlight of the annual Northern Ireland Economic Conference is the in-depth review of the performance of the local economy and a medium term forecast of the key economic parameters. This is undertaken by the Economic Policy Centre in Ulster University using its economic model of the Northern Ireland economy.

#### √ The economic impact of Brexit

By the date of the conference we should know how the final stages of the negotiations for the UK to leave the European Union are panning out. Visiting expert Nina Skero, who is Head of Macroeconomics at the Centre for Economics and Business Research, will give delegates an insight into the economic impact of Brexit. Keynote speaker Philip Stephens from the Financial Times will look not only at Brexit but how

other major changes in world politics, including the economic policies of US President Donald Trump will affect the global economy.

#### Why should I attend?

- ✓ Expert local and visiting speakers
- ✓ Major economic summit
- ✓ Economic outlook and forecast
- ✓ Unique information presented
- ✓ Not to be missed annual conference
- ✓ Unrivalled networking opportunity
- ✓ All sectors represented government, business, third sector



















#### √ Tackling the productivity crisis

This session will include several expert speakers who will look at the drivers of Northern Ireland's productivity. The UK has a "productivity crisis" and Northern Ireland's productivity has been 20 per cent below the UK average for the last decade. Speakers will investigate what can be done locally to address the various drivers of productivity in Northern Ireland. These include:

- o The pivotal role of third level education in productivity;
- o How we can drive exports;
- o The importance of innovation and research and development to the economy;
- o The quality of employment in Northern Ireland;
- o Productivity in manufacturing;
- o Infrastructure investment as a driver of productivity.

#### ✓ A tale of two economies on the island of Ireland

In contrast to the poor performance of the Northern Ireland economy, the Republic of Ireland is seeing one of the highest growth rates in the world. There is now a stark divergence in the two economies on the island. Leaving the politics to one side, this year's conference will once again look to contrast both economies and look to all-island issues where both jurisdictions can benefit.







#### Hear speakers from:



NERI





















## Key issues to be addressed at the conference will include:

- The economic impact of Brexit
- Economic priorities for Northern Ireland
- Northern Ireland regional economic forecast
- The productivity challenge
- Quality of employment and the impact on the economy
- Growing the export economy
- Brexit and the impact on Higher Education and skills
- Infrastructure as a driver of productivity and growth
- Driving economic growth in the North West
- Innovation and R&D













## conference programme

#### 09.00 The Northern Ireland economic outlook



**ECONOMIC FORECAST** 

LOCAL ECONOMY

NFRASTRUCTURE

**EMPLOYMENT** 

HIGHER EDUCATION

MANUFACTURING

**EXPORTS** 

Chairman's introduction: John Campbell, Economics & Business Editor, BBC Northern Ireland

WELCOME Councillor Julie Flaherty, Lord Mayor of Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council

The Northern Ireland medium term economic outlook

Dr Esmond Birnie, Senior Economist, Ulster University Economic Policy Centre

Delivering economic policy in uncertain times

David Sterling, Head of the Northern Ireland Civil Service (invited)

The local economy: Greater investment, more jobs and enhanced quality of life

Roger Wilson, Chief Executive, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council

#### **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

The impact of Brexit, Trump and an increasingly chaotic world on the global economy Philip Stephens, Associate Editor, Financial Times

Questions and answers / Panel discussion

10.45 Morning coffee / networking opportunity

#### 11.15 The productivity crisis

Infrastructure as a driver of productivity and growth

Senior representative, National Infrastructure Commission

The quality of employment in Northern Ireland and the impact on the economy

Lisa Wilson, Economist, Nevin Economic Research Institute

The impact of Brexit on Higher Education
Chris Hale, Director of Policy, Universities UK

Growing the export economy

Clare Guinness, Chief Executive, Warrenpoint Harbour Authority

Addressing the productivity crisis: A manufacturing perspective Richard Smith, General Manager, Huhtamaki

Questions and answers / Panel discussion

13.00 Lunch / networking opportunity

## conference programme

#### 14.00 What next for the economy?

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Growing the all-Island economy in the face of Brexit

Simon Coveney TD, An Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade (invited)

BREXIT

The impact of Brexit on the economy: What lies ahead?

Nina Skero, Head of Macroeconomics, Centre for Economics and Business Research

NORTH WEST

Driving economic growth in the North West

Paul Gosling, Financial journalist / commentator

FUTURE OF WORK

Growing the knowledge economy in Northern Ireland

Dr Joanne Stuart, Director of Development, Catalyst Inc

REGIONAL CITIES

Investing in regional cities for a more balanced economy

Professor Edgar Morgenroth, Professor of Economics, Dublin City University (invited)

Questions and answers / Panel discussion

#### **BREXIT PANEL: WHAT NEXT?**

- 1. From your perspective how do you see Brexit unfolding? How will it impact on the Northern Ireland economy?
- 2. What sectors will be particularly challenged by the UK leaving the European Union?
- 3. How will the Northern Ireland economy cope with the loss of EU funding?
- 4. What plans has your organisation put in place to mitigate against any downside?
- 5. Looking to the future, what should senior managers and policy makers focus on?



David Gavaghan
Founder
Aurora Prime Real
Estate Limited



Dr Katy Hayward
Reader in Sociology
Queen's University
Belfast



Conor Lambe
Chief Economist
Danske Bank



Trevor Lockhart
Chief Executive
Fane Valley
and Chair, CBI
Northern Ireland



Seamus McAleavey
Chief Executive
NICVA (invited)

16.45 **Conference close** 











## conference speaker panel



**Dr Esmond Birnie** is Senior Economist at the **Ulster University Economic Policy Centre**. He has over thirty years of experience in terms of providing economic analysis and also in terms of advising government and working in government. Prior to joining Ulster University, he was Chief Economist in PwC for Northern Ireland and Scotland. Before that, he had been a Ministerial Special Adviser and a Member of the Northern Ireland Assembly. Esmond is a regular commentator in the media on the Northern Ireland economy and public policy including a regular column in the *Belfast Telegraph*.



**John Campbell** is Economics and Business Editor for **BBC Northern Ireland**, a position he has held since September 2013. Prior to that he was a senior BBC producer working across TV, radio and online with special responsibility for business coverage. He began his career on the *Liverpool Daily Post and Echo*.



David Gavaghan has established Aurora Prime Real Estate Limited and is seeking to raise £50 million locally and internationally to invest in Grade A office space in Belfast. Previously he was Executive Director of Quintain Estates and Development plc. He is the former Chief Executive of Titanic Quarter Limited and prior to that was Chief Executive of the Strategic Investment Board Limited for six years. David was also Chair of CBI Northern Ireland from 2016-2018 having previously been Vice Chair.



Paul Gosling is a journalist, author, researcher, public speaker, lecturer, copywriter and broadcaster. He specialises in the economy, accountancy, the co-operative sector, public services and personal finances. Paul's work has appeared in the *Financial Times, The Independent, The Times,* the *Irish Times*, the *Sunday Times*, the *Mail on Sunday*, the *Express,* the *Daily Telegraph, Ireland's Sunday Business Post,* the *Irish Independent* and more than a hundred magazines. Paul is a frequent commentator on the economy and politics for BBC Radio Ulster and Radio Foyle. He has also appeared on BBC1, Radio 4, Radio 5, UTV, RTE, several television documentaries and on Russian and German radio. Paul has also written several books on public policy issues and on the impact of digital technologies.



Clare Guinness is Chief Executive of Warrenpoint Harbour Authority. With over 20 years commercial experience gained in Business & Corporate banking, and in the Agri-Food sector, Clare was appointed to this position in January 2018. She is a Finance graduate who has also completed the Chartered Institute of Directors Certificate & Diploma in Company Direction and Nebosh General Certificate in Occupational Health & Safety.



Chris Hale is Director of Policy at Universities UK. In this role he is responsible for the development and management of Universities UK's policy work, produced by a largely in-house team of programme managers, economists and analysts. Before being appointed Director in 2015, Chris was Assistant Director of Policy at Universities UK and led on a number of areas of work including efficiency and effectiveness and the regulation of higher education. Chris has significant expertise in research policy, working as a policy adviser on this issue for Universities UK for a number of years. Prior to working at Universities UK, Chris worked at the General Medical Council and holds a degree from the University of Sussex and MSc from University College London.



**Dr Katy Hayward** is Senior Lecturer in Sociology and Senior Research Fellow in the Senator George J. Mitchell Institute at **Queen's University Belfast**. She is the author of over 80 publications and Irish partner for the Borders in Globalization project. Outside the University, she is a Board member of the Centre for Cross Border Studies.



Conor Lambe is the Chief Economist at Danske Bank, acting as the Bank's spokesperson and a trusted subject matter expert on all UK and Northern Ireland economic and related matters. Conor is responsible for Danske Bank's Quarterly Sectoral Forecasts and Consumer Confidence Index and is a regular contributor across the local media. He often speaks at business functions and with Danske Bank customers on his views around the global, UK and Northern Ireland economies.



Trevor Lockhart is Chair, CBI Northern Ireland. He graduated from Queen's University Belfast in 1992 with an Honours Degree in Agriculture and worked in Masstock Inc. Atlanta, Georgia, USA before returning to Northern Ireland with the Ulster Farmers' Union where he occupied a number of roles. Trevor joined Fane Valley Co-operative Society in 2004 and became Group Chief Executive in April 2007. He is currently Chairman of the Linden Food Group (a subsidiary of Fane Valley), Chairman of Linergy Ltd, Chairman of the Executive Board of Slaney Foods, and Chairman of Edinburgh based United Farmers Ltd. He is past Chairman of the Agrarian Society at Queen's University Belfast, past Chairman and President of the Northern Ireland Institute of Agricultural Science and past Chairman of the Agri-Food Industry Advisory Panel and is currently a member of the successor Agri-Food Strategy Board.



**Philip Stephens** is associate editor of the **Financial Times** and director of the editorial board. As chief political commentator he writes on global and British affairs. He joined the Financial Times in 1983 after working as a correspondent for Reuters in Brussels and has been the FT's economics editor, political editor and editor of the UK edition. He was educated at Wimbledon College and at Oxford university. He wrote the book *Politics and the Pound*, a study of the management of exchange rates by the British Government, and its relations with Europe since 1979. He also wrote a biography of Tony Blair, when the latter was British Prime Minister.



Nina Skero is Head of Macroeconomics at the Centre for Economics and Business Research, a leading economics consultancy based in London. She also leads Cebr's UK forecasting. Her recent bespoke projects include work for Legal & General, Royal Mail and The Federation of Small Businesses. Given the high profile of her work, she regularly engages in media appearances, including live commentary on BBC News, Bloomberg TV and Sky News. Her commentary has been featured in leading publications such as *The Times, Financial Times* and the *Daily Mail*.



Richard Smith is the General Manager of Huhtamaki Lurgan Ltd which is part of the €3billion Huhtamaki food packaging group. The Lurgan plant contributes to the circular economy by processing council collected waste paper and factory waste card into egg cartons and cup carriers. The company has recently completed a £5million investment in automated production lines to boost output by 25%. Richard has over 15 years' experience at MD/GM level in the manufacturing, renewables and food sectors.



**Dr Joanne Stuart, OBE** is Director of Development at **Catalyst Inc**, Northern Ireland's next generation science park. She is responsible for the development of strategic relationships to support the growth of the Knowledge Economy in Northern Ireland. Since returning to NI in 2005, she has been active in the area of economic development and championing STEAM subjects amongst the region's younger generation. A former Chairman of IoD NI, Joanne has over 25 years' experience working in the IT industry, including nine years with the Oracle Corporation.



Lisa Wilson is an Economist at the Nevin Economic Research Institute. Her main research interests lie in the areas of income distribution, poverty, public expenditure, living standards and well-being. Lisa is keen to continue to conduct research examining the impact of economic and social policy both at macro- and micro-economic levels. Furthermore, she is interested in exploring ways in which economic and social inequalities can be reduced and in developing policy recommendations to these ends. Lisa has previously worked on numerous short-term research projects within the School of Sociology, Social Policy and Social Work, Queen's University Belfast.



Roger Wilson was appointed as Chief Executive of Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council on 1 April 2014. Prior to this he was Chief Executive of Coleraine Borough Council, before which he was Strategic Director of Corporate Services with Armagh City and District Council. He was formerly Head of HR and Organisational Development with Craigavon Borough Council and has also worked in the private sector. He is a Chartered Company Secretary, obtained his MBA in Public Administration from the University of Ulster and is a graduate of the Federal Executive Institute, Charlottesville, Virginia.

## conference registration form

#### I wish to

Ш	Reserve	delegate places at the conference						
	Conference delegate fee £255 + VAT @ 20% = £306 Fee includes documentation, lunch and other refreshments served during the conference and is payable in advance. Fee does not include delegate accommodation or travel.							
	Discounted rate for voluntary/community/local government sectors							
	Conference delegate fee £165 + VAT @ 20% = £198							
	Receive details	ve details of <b>sponsorship opportunities</b> at the conference						
	Receive details of <b>exhibition opportunities</b> at the conference							
Pe	rsonal de	tails						
Nar	ne:							
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Ema	ail:							
Confi receip ackno	irmation of regist pt of registratio pwledgement wit	nt of registration ration will be emailed to all delegates following on details. If you have not received your thin 48 hours of registering, please contact accome to confirm your booking.						
* Invo	le to attend, a sub ional charge. Alter nail, the following More than 14 da	d prior to the event taking place. For delegates ostitute participant may be sent at any time for no matively for cancellations received in writing, by fax charges will apply:  lys before the conference: 25% fee  s before the conference: 100% fee						

#### Who should attend?

The Annual Northern Ireland Economic Conference is aimed at key decision-makers and those across business and government/the public sector with an interest in tackling the challenges to ensure Northern Ireland's economy is fit for the future. It will also appeal to those interacting with the public sector, both in policy advisory and service delivery or advocacy roles. Those interested in attending will include:

- Chief Executives / Directors / senior managers
- Finance directors / managers
- Central government / department officials
- Agencies, advisory bodies and NDPBs
- Frontline service delivery professionals
- Auditors / value-for-money specialists
- Local government officers and elected representatives
- Budget-holders
- Corporate planners
- Voluntary / community sector leaders / NGOs
- Services organisations IT / telecoms
- Financial and legal advisors

#### Payment options

I enclose a cheque for £ Payable to 'bmf Business Services'.						
Please debit my Visa / Mastercard						
Card No.						
Name of card holder						
Signature						
Expiry date						
Security code						
Please invoice me PO Number:						

#### How to register...



By telephone +44 (0)28 9261 9933

www.agendaNi.com/events



By email registration@agendaNi.com



By post bmf Business Services Davidson House Glenavy Road Business Park Moira, BT67 OLT

(Please provide card billing address if different from company address)



Scan QR code



#### Don't miss Northern Ireland's only annual one day economic conference! Benefits of attending include:



- ✓ Hear directly from key players in the Northern Ireland economy
- ✓ Unique economic forecast presented
- ✓ Expert visiting speakers
- ✓ Discuss key economic drivers: competitiveness, productivity, skills
- ✓ Consider the Northern Ireland economy in the national & European context
- ✓ Opportunity to ask questions
- ✓ Not-to-be-missed networking opportunity





## Tackling Paramilitarism

Working Together to End the Harm Conference

#endingtheharm



Dear invitee,

The Tackling Paramilitarism Programme Team would like to invite you to the **Working Together to End the Harm** Conference on Monday 15th October, 2018 at Girdwood Community Hub, Belfast.

The Conference will highlight projects within the Tackling Paramilitarism Action Plan, facilitate discussion workshops and offer the opportunity to share learning experiences.

Registration opens at 9:30 a.m. The conference will commence at 10:00 a.m. and conclude at 4:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided.

Please RSVP by **Wednesday 04 October** to <u>deborah.waugh@justice-ni.x.gsi.gov.uk</u> and advise of any dietary or access requirements. A full agenda will follow.

#### **Venue information:**

Girdwood Community Hub 10 Girdwood Avenue Belfast, BT14 6EG

**Parking:** Free parking is available onsite and on adjoining side roads.

**By bus:** Please check <a href="http://www.translink.co.uk/">http://www.translink.co.uk/</a> for the most suitable option. The closest landmark, Crumlin Road Gaol, is an approximate 10 minute walk.

We look forward to seeing you there and don't forget to follow us on Twitter

@endingtheharm











#### Less than two weeks until the

# WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION INTERNATIONAL HEALTHY CITIES CONFERENCE, BELFAST 1- 4 OCTOBER 2018

#### £200 DAY DELEGATE RATE NOW AVAILABLE

Special rates and day passes available for students and the voluntary and community sector!



Dear Colleagues,

We are delighted to attach the latest version of the WHO International Healthy Cities programme, 1-4 October, which will be in the beautiful Belfast Waterfront.

There are *45 speakers in <u>8 Side Events</u>* which will be held on Monday 1 October 2018, 10.00- 12.30 in various locations across the city.

A number of <u>Site Visits</u> are still available – high demand means that some have now reached their target number of registrations and are now closed, so book your place sooner rather than later.

We have 152 speakers in the Parallel sessions (Learning Through Practice) over the four days, with a number of Strategic Workshops and training sessions.

The <u>plenary themes</u> centre on *peace and participation; people and place and planet and prosperity* - we are delighted that so many speakers are available to participate in the event.

We have **speakers and delegates from almost 60 countries** including Australia, Canada, Nigeria, Oman, Taiwan, United Arab Emirates as well as from many countries in WHO Europe.

We welcome you to register as a four day delegate or as a day delegate for £200 and hear first-hand of the successes of many cities addressing global and local challenges

*Please register by* <u>visiting the Conference website</u>. Special rates are available for the voluntary and community sectors.

For further information or any queries please contact:

Julie McAllister <u>julie@belfasthealthycities.com</u>

Caroline Scott Caroline@phasevhealthycities.org

Belfast Healthy Cities Conference Team

### Appendix B

Conference & Seminar	Date	No. of	Location	Attendance Fee
RTPI NI	11/9/18	Attendees	Belfast	Voc (4th place
KIFINI	11/9/10	4	Deliast	Yes (4th place free)
All Ireland Smart Cities	26/9/18	1	Dublin	Yes
Forum Annual Conference				
Conveyancing Conference 2018	9/10/18	1	Belfast	Yes
Disability Awareness Conference	9/10/18	1	Lough Neagh	No
			Discovery Centre,	
			Craigavon	
Playboard NI Conference 2018	16/10/18	1	Belfast	No