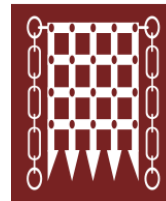


## Policy Forum for Ireland & Policy Forum for Northern Ireland Keynote Seminar:

### Next steps for young children's education on the island of Ireland

New date: Morning, Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024

\*\*\*Taking place online\*\*\*



*Draft agenda, subject to change*

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**  
Senior Member of the Oireachtas
- 9.05 **Policy priorities for the young children's education sector on the island of Ireland**  
**Paul Brush**, Director of Early Years, Children and Youth, Department of Education NI  
Senior representative, policy  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.45 Break
- 9.50 **Assessing the priorities for improving outcomes and attainment in early learning**  
**Dr Glenda Walsh**, Head of Early Years Education and Assistant Director, Centre for Research in Educational Underachievement, Stranmillis University College
- 10.00 **Improving service provision - affordability and accessing provision, improving outcomes, and options for developing outdoor learning and play**  
**Karen Cince**, CEO, Tigers Childcare  
**Charlene Brooks**, CEO, Parenting NI  
**Aoife Hamilton**, Consultant, Employers for Childcare  
**Joan Whelan**, Chairperson, Irish Forest School Association
- 10.20 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.50 **Chair's closing remarks**  
Senior Member of the Oireachtas
- 10.55 Break
- 11.05 **Chair's opening remarks**  
Senior Member of the Legislative Assembly
- 11.10 **Case study: Involving children in the process of curriculum review - what can be learned?**  
**Dr Leah O'Toole**, Associate Professor of Early Childhood Education, Maynooth University; and Principal Investigator, Aistear Consultation with Babies and Young Children, The Early Childhood Curriculum Framework (NCCA 2009)  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.30 **Priorities for the young children's education workforce - opportunities for increasing workforce professionalisation, providing clear progression pathways, improving recruitment and retention, and addressing pay concerns**  
Senior representative, union  
Senior representative, independent practitioner  
Senior commentator  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.10 Break
- 12.15 **An all-island approach - assessing benefits and how they could be achieved, tackling inequalities and educational underachievement, researching a strategic evidence base, and advocacy and implementation strategies**  
Senior representative, inequalities  
Senior representative, practitioner  
Senior representative, community development  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Forum Projects closing remarks**  
Senior Member of the Legislative Assembly  
**Tiernan Phipps**, Lead Researcher, Policy Forum for Ireland & Policy Forum for Northern Ireland