



MAKING LIFE BETTER

NEWS

ISSUE 4 - WINTER 2024

WELCOME

## CMO Foreword

I am delighted to welcome you to the Winter Edition of the Making Life Better (MLB) Newsletter.

A lot has happened in the MLB sphere since the Autumn Newsletter, and I am pleased that we have now reestablished a rhythm around meetings and publications. The last meeting of the All Departments Officials Group (ADOG) took place as planned on 16 November. The meeting was very well attended by representatives from all Departments, and colleagues from the Department for the Economy presented on their exciting 10X Economic Vision, a framework that sets out their aspirations to transform the NI economy by 2030. Public Health Agency colleagues also delivered presentations on progress around the Mental Health Early Intervention / Prevention Programme and a funding mapping exercise to identify capacity building investment across the region. The next ADOG meeting is scheduled for 30 May and will include discussion on the MLB Focused Action Plan, which focuses on a number of collaborative actions and programmes that can be delivered across Government Departments and sectors.

A new feature included in this Winter Edition is an introduction to ADOG colleagues, providing an insight into their roles and current work priorities, and how their work relates to MLB. In this Edition I am delighted to introduce you to Michael McAvoy, Head of Community Safety Division in the Department of Justice and Martina Moore, Director of the Integrated Care System NI Programme in the Department of Health.

Finally, I would draw your attention to the online **MLB Webinar** on **Wednesday 21 February at 12 noon**. The one-hour webinar will showcase some of the work of MLB in practice in helping people to start well, live well and age well in NI. I would once again encourage your participation and you can register [here](#).



## Get In Touch

If you have any questions about the content of MLB News, have work you want to share with the Network or wish to join please email :

[MLBnetwork@hscni.net](mailto:MLBnetwork@hscni.net)

Professor Sir Michael McBride

# All Departments Officials Group (ADOG) - Introductions

I am responsible for the development and implementation of a new model for planning health and social care services in Northern Ireland. As MLB recognises, keeping our population well requires us to think and work differently. ICS NI is a key enabler to support the need for change, acting as one of the drivers in adopting a broader population health approach focus and supporting collaborative working within and across sectors. My priority over the next 12 months is to implement the ICS NI model in practice, with the roll-out commencing in April 2024. This will include the need to further develop how we align our work with ADOG to ensure that we complement and support each other to effect actual change on the ground and for our population.

**Martina Moore**  
Programme Director, Integrated Care System NI (ICS NI)



In the same way that understanding the social determinants of health is critically important to making lives better in Northern Ireland, understanding how to maximise partnership working is at the heart of everything the Department of Justice (DoJ) does. Many of the same partners who are part of the All Departments Officials Group also work with the Justice Family to help build safe and resilient communities across NI. Vulnerable citizens who misuse substances have a heightened risk of being a perpetrator of crime, or a victim of crime. Prevention and early intervention are key principles as we work to deflect people from coming into contact with the criminal justice system and to improve community safety. I'm pleased to be involved in the cross-cutting work represented by the ambitious MLB agenda, and will seek at every opportunity to ensure that DoJ contributes fully to the achievement of MLB's goals and aspirations.

**Michael McAvoy**  
Head of Community Safety Division,  
Safer Communities Directorate, DoJ



# Lunchtime Seminar Agenda & Speakers

21st February 2024 12noon - 1pm



**Seminar Facilitator - Fiona Teague**  
PHA Head of Health & Wellbeing (West)



**Introductions - Dr. Joanne McClean**  
PHA Director of Public Health



## STARTING WELL

Early Intervention and Support Service

**Bryan Leonard**  
PHA Health and Social  
Wellbeing Improvement  
Manager

## LIVING WELL

Whole Systems Approach to Obesity



**David Tumilty**  
PHA Senior Officer  
Health and Social  
Wellbeing  
Improvement



**Colette Brolly**  
PHA Health and Social  
Wellbeing Improvement  
Manager



**Sandra Aitcheson**  
PHA Assistant Director for  
Nursing



**Diane McIntyre**  
PHA Interim Head of  
Health & Wellbeing  
Improvement (Belfast & South  
Eastern Area)

## AGEING WELL

Overview of work supported through the  
PHA Strategic Planning Team model

Click link below to register:

[MS Teams Link for MLB Lunchtime Seminar](#)

# News from the Network

## Using a public health approach to reduce harm from Paramilitarism

The cross-Executive Programme on Paramilitarism and Organised Crime (EPPOC) is an ambitious, multi-disciplinary and transformational change programme working to deliver the NI Executive's priority of addressing the challenging issues associated with paramilitarism.



*Above: The EPPOC public awareness campaign highlights the harm committed by paramilitarism.*

Whilst good progress is being made, lessons learned so far only serve to underline how the enduring and pervasive nature of paramilitarism requires a long term, collaborative approach if we are to effectively resolve all these issues.

To find out more about EPPOC, please visit their website: [endingtheharm.com/about-us](http://endingtheharm.com/about-us) or you can follow them on X/Twitter: @endingtheharm.

If you would like to sign up for their bi-monthly Programme Newsletter, [please click here](#).



The Executive Programme on Paramilitarism & Organised Crime

EPPOC is delivered through seven NICS Departments, 15 statutory agencies and 89 Voluntary and Community Sector (VSC) partners, investing in over 100 projects throughout Northern Ireland. Using innovative local expertise and internationally recognised methods, projects prevent people being exploited and provide direct support or signpost people towards help. Projects vary in scale, focus, location, target group and methodology depending on an identified need.



EPPOC takes a public health approach to violence reduction. Using this framework is recognition that there is no single intervention or project that can address this problem on its own; it's a relay team effort across sectors, disciplines and expertise using trauma-informed interventions to support people, many of them young, and protect them from harm.