

ANNUAL CONFERENCE
26th May 2017
Young People-Mental Health-Addiction
Facing the Challenges
Speakers Biographies

Niall Breslin (aka Bressie), is known for many things - a former Leinster rugby player, a GAA player, a judge on "The Voice of Ireland", a triathlete, but probably most importantly for his work in the area of mental health education and empowerment which began after his own struggles led him to open up publicly on the issue. Niall has made huge strides in shining the spotlight on this issue and continues to do so. www.alustforlife.com

Dr Niall Muldoon is Ireland's Ombudsman for Children, having been appointed in February 2015 by President Michael D. Higgins, following an open competition and an interview process involving children and adults.

As Ombudsman for Children, Niall is directly accountable to the Oireachtas in relation to the exercise of his two overall statutory functions under the Ombudsman for Children Act 2002. These functions are: to promote the rights and welfare of children and young people up to the age of 18 years living in Ireland and to deal with complaints made by or for children and young people about actions of public bodies.

During his first year in office, Niall raised concerns about a range of issues affecting the rights and welfare of children and young people in Ireland with the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, the UN's Working Group on Universal Periodic Review, three Oireachtas Committees as well as via several media outlets.

Niall's vision for his term as Ombudsman for Children is to mobilise his independence and statutory functions under the Ombudsman for Children Act 2002 to help generate an Ireland where all children and young people are actively heard and respected so that they experience safe, fulfilling and happy everyday lives.

Prior to his appointment as Ombudsman for Children, Niall was Director of Investigations with the Office. Niall is a registered counselling and clinical psychologist and has worked in the area of child protection for almost 20 years, working with children, adults and families affected by sexual and other abuses. Niall also worked within the field of Intellectual Disability and completed his Masters on the Development of a Relationship and Sexuality Programme for Adults with Intellectual Disability. www.oco.ie

Academic qualifications: B.Sc Psychology, London Metropolitan University; M.Sc. Counselling Psychology, Trinity College, Dublin; PhD, University College, Dublin.

Philip Mullan completed a BA in Applied Social Studies in Social Care in Waterford I.T. in 2009 and an MA in Sociology (Applied Social Research) in Limerick University in 2011. He worked in residential care with Daffodil Care Services until September 2013. Philip was awarded 1st place under the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA) Research Scholarship Programme 2013 and received a full scholarship for his Ph.D. research into the outcomes experienced by Care Leavers in Ireland. Philip also received additional funding from Daffodil Care Services. His final research dissertation was submitted on 28th February 2017.

Carol Moore FCA, PGCert (Soc. Sci.) PGCPSE, M.Sc. (Psych) As a patient herself with an auto immune illness since she was a teenager Carol has an excellent understanding of the patient's viewpoint and is a patient educator for trainee doctors in UCD medical school.

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When a family member became ill with physical and mental health issues, Carol acted as an advocate. After their death, working with other mental health professionals Carol co-founded Dual Diagnosis Ireland a registered charity which aims to raise awareness of the need to treat mental health and addiction issues together. She also co-founded Mental Health Reform a registered charity promoting improved mental health services with 50 plus member organisations.

Carol has served on the Social Workers Registration Board of CORU the state agency responsible for regulating allied health professionals. She has considerable experience of the health care sector, acting as chief executive & finance officer in a number of different health care service providers.

She is a fellow of Chartered Accountants Ireland with a strong track record of implementing change in a wide range of sectors. Carol has Post Graduate qualifications in social science, education, psychometrics, a Masters in psychology and is a qualified mediator. She also has a diploma in Digital marketing.

Carol's special interests are technology in health care and implementing seamless care pathways for service users. She is currently leading a project to deliver online alcohol abuse treatments directly to consumers thus reducing the stigma around alcohol abuse. Lifewise www.alifewise.ie Dual Diagnosis Ire. www.dualdiagnosis.ie Mental Health Reform www.mentalhealthreform.ie

John Lonergan is a native of Bansha, Co. Tipperary. He served in the Irish Prison Service for over 42 years. He was Governor of Mountjoy Prison for over 22 years and Governor of the top security prison at Portlaoise for almost 4 years. John retired in June 2010 and later that year his autobiography "The Governor" was published. In 2013 he wrote a book on parenting with the title 'Parenting – raising your child in Ireland today', with all royalties going to Barnardos, the children's charity. Nowadays he delivers talks on a wide range of subjects to communities, voluntary groups, workers and students. He is an active supporter of many charitable organisations.

John's philosophy is that change, personal or otherwise, cannot be enforced on people, believing that real and meaningful change only comes about through dialogue, consent and agreement. He is convinced that human beings change from the inside out and suggests that the big to gain respect.

Marguerite Kiely is Clinical Director of Pieta House and Head of Child and Adolescence. She is an Accredited Psychotherapist and Accredited Clinical Supervisor. Marguerite has worked with Pieta House since it first opened in 2006 and has been very involved in the development of the Pieta model supporting people in the community struggling with suicide ideation, people who have attempted suicide, or are engaging in self-harm as a coping mechanism. Marguerite brings with her a wealth of experience through her passion and commitment to supporting young people in crisis. www.pieta.ie