



Winners' Guide

Advancing Healthcare Awards Northern Ireland 2023

Innovation | Creativity | Leadership | Compassion

Celebrating the winning entries,
presented on Thursday 12 October 2023
Stormont Hotel, Belfast



Chamberlain Dunn Events

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Congratulations to all our winners and finalists

Welcome to the work of the finalists of the 2023 Advancing Healthcare awards Northern Ireland for allied health professionals, healthcare scientists and those who work alongside them.

The Advancing Healthcare Awards Northern Ireland ceremony was held in Belfast at the Stormont Hotel on 12 October. We achieved over 100 entries which is incredible at a time when everyone is under so much pressure. It's a real tribute to the dedication and creativity of AHPs and healthcare scientists in Northern Ireland.

A special thank you to our sponsors and supporters who not only provided financial support but helped us with the huge task of judging. These organisations are:

- iREACH Health & the Queen's University School of Nursing and Midwifery and Faculty Public Engagement
- Clinical Education Centre, part of the Business Services Organisation
- Public Health Agency
- Academy for Healthcare Science
- Unite the Union
- Institute of Biomedical Science
- Ulster University
- Royal College of Speech & Language Therapists

We went virtual with the judging to make it as time efficient as possible for everyone.

The judges found the experience inspiring and challenging, selecting winners from so many outstanding entries. This **Winners' Guide** summarises the work of the finalists and gives contact details.

Thank you to everyone who helped to make the 2023 Northern Ireland Awards so successful.

Alison Dunn and Will Chamberlain-Webber

Joint managing directors, Chamberlain Dunn
October 2023

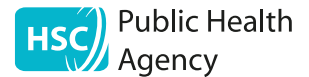
Our Winners' Guide is a vital part of the Advancing Healthcare awards programme. We are proud of it for (at least) four reasons:

- 1** It gives participants, guests, entrants and the wider healthcare world a chance to digest more fully the work of the finalists
- 2** It is a more permanent record of the achievements of AHPs in Northern Ireland in 2023 than an awards ceremony can ever achieve
- 3** It gives contact details for those wanting to find out more to build on their own work and to share experiences
- 4** It helps us to stand out from the crowd – very few award organisers take the trouble to deliver this final piece of the jigsaw.

If you would like to be involved in the Advancing Healthcare Awards as a sponsor, judge or simply share some ideas about how we can develop the programme, please contact **Ellie Hayden** on ellie@chamberdunn.co.uk or call 020 8334 4500

AWARD FOR PARTNERSHIP IN PUBLIC HEALTH

SPONSORED BY THE PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY



WINNER & OVERALL WINNER

Causeway Healthy Kids Project

Clare Galway, paediatric health improvement dietitian and Sandra Anderson, health and wellbeing manager, Northern

This project is a fantastic example of partnership work producing real outcomes for the Northern Trust population. Success is due to the range of partners working together to develop the project and produce shared outcomes across the organisations and directorates.

The Northern Healthy Lifestyle Partnership, coordinated by the Trust, works collaboratively across a range of agencies and thematic areas with a focus on nutrition and physical activity in the prevention and management of obesity. NHLP partners worked collaboratively and used their expertise to develop the Healthy Kids project with the development of an eleven-week programme (1½ hours duration), targeted for key stage 2 primary school children. Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council led on the physical activity component by developing interactive physical activity sessions with support from the Health and Wellbeing team physical activity lead. Dietetics led on the nutritional component

with the creation and development of innovative animated Eat Well to be Well animated videos, associated worksheets and lesson plans. The Health and Wellbeing team led on the emotional health and wellbeing Take 5 message which included the creation and development of animated videos, worksheets and lesson plans. They developed a Healthy Kids brand logo to promote and showcase the project. The project was delivered to Primary 7 pupils attending 12 primary schools identified within 2017 NISRA deprivation measure within the Causeway Borough as a pilot programme.

“ A brilliant project, said the judges. It will have long-term positive consequences on population health. ”

FINALISTS



The Belfast Wide Early Years Pilot

Lorraine McErlean, lead clinician speech and language therapist and **Sharon McMaster**, assistant occupational therapy manager for Children's Services, Belfast

This project depended on synergy from health, education, Surestart and voluntary agencies working together to support 78 preschool children with additional needs in 13 projects across Belfast. It is an innovative integrated model of care delivered in local communities empowering others in the child's environment. It has been evidenced-based and independently evaluated with impressive results.

Contact:

sharon.mcmaster@belfasttrust.hscni.net
Lorraine.McErlean@belfasttrust.hscni.net



Establishing an alcohol-related brain injury service in NI

Naomi Brown, clinical lead, Leonard Cheshire

The ARBI Unit is a 14 bedded, residential, short-term rehabilitation unit for individuals diagnosed with an alcohol related brain injury. It provides neurorehabilitation and adapted additions management support, offering accessible treatment for people with cognitive impairment, through multidisciplinary assessment and intervention and is the only ARBI service in Ireland.

Contact: naomi.brown@leonardcheshire.org



CONTACT:

Clare.Galway@belfasttrust.hscni.net

AWARD FOR RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

SPONSORED BY iREACH HEALTH & THE QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY AND FACULTY PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT



WINNER

Research that advances rehabilitation in respiratory and critical care

Professor Brenda O'Neill, Centre for Health and Rehabilitation Technologies (CHaRT), Ulster University

Brenda's research has embedded a range of methodologies to develop and test rehabilitation and health-related strategies. Her research, in partnership and collaboration with patients, staff and stakeholders, has significantly advanced the health and wellbeing of people with problems due to respiratory disease and recovering after critical illness.

Her research has investigated patients' recovery after ICU. The unmet need for rehabilitation in the community was identified and she is now leading a trial to test remote multicomponent rehabilitation after ICU (iRehab). Other research led to improved step counts and walking for COPD. Patients provided positive feedback about the delivery of the programme by AHPs.

Brenda has a sustained track record of leading interdisciplinary research as Principal Investigator with 67 key publications in peer reviewed journals. She leads others towards preparing their work for dissemination which enables impact and implementation of findings. Her current studies explore patient confidence to manage after ICU; remote rehabilitation after ICU, and strategies to improve management of people with COPD and bronchiectasis.

She leads the Centre for Health and Rehabilitation Technologies (CHaRT), Ulster University. She works across hospital and university boundaries to influence research focus and research informed teaching. She helps to match staff to research areas and collaborators which impacts their research growth and learning and they then feel prepared to teach and supervise their own students.



CONTACT:

b.oneill@ulster.ac.uk

FINALISTS



The MARCH trial (Mucoactives in acute respiratory failure: carbocysteine and hypertonic saline)

Dr Bronwen Connolly, Senior lecturer, critical care, Queen's University

MARCH is a clinical trial investigating the clinical and cost effectiveness of two mucoactive agents in critically ill patients with acute respiratory failure. Funded through commission by the NIHR HTA Programme, MARCH involves around 60 UK intensive care units.

Contact: b.connolly@qub.ac.uk



Radiography advanced practitioners' clinical background: impact upon interpretation performance

Noelle Clerkin, Deputy breast service manager, advanced practitioner, Breast Imaging, Belfast

The efficacy of a breast cancer screening programme relies on efficient analysis of mammograms. Readers must meet the optimal interpretation performance standards of their peers. This study aims to identify clinical background implications that impact the performance of UK Radiography Advanced Practitioners.

Contact: noelle.clerkin@belfasttrust.hscni.net

“ The judges were impressed by this excellent project which has made a real difference to patients recovering from respiratory disease or critical illness. ”

AWARD FOR SERVICE IMPROVEMENT

SPONSORED BY THE CLINICAL EDUCATION CENTRE,
PART OF THE BUSINESS SERVICES ORGANISATION



WINNER

Falls in Care Home Pathway for NI Project

Regional Falls in Care Homes Falls Pathway and Bundle Team Partner

This is an exemplar of co-production, where AHPs were pivotal in its development and success. AHPs collaborated in this ambitious whole system redesign developing a consistent falls pathway for NI. Outcomes were demonstrated across the Quintuple aim with the resident at the heart.

NICE guidelines suggest that 30% of adults aged 65 years and older and 50% of adults aged over 80 years fall at least once per year (NICE, 2013). Falls is one of the biggest problems reported within our care homes in NI. For the residents falls can have a major impact on their quality of life, physically and mentally and can be catastrophic. Falls are complex and multifactorial and the MDT which included paramedics, physiotherapy, dietetics, speech and language therapists and occupational therapist, engaged extensively with all key stakeholders to co-produce, test and implement a sustainable regional falls pathway.

The aim was to improve resident experience and quality of life to 80% and reduce risk of falls by 30% in eighteen partner care homes (nursing and residential). Through whole system collaborative working, including with AHPs, a suite of documents and information were developed - Falls Risk and Review Document; Falls and Near Misses Calendar; Post Falls Guidelines; Long Lies-Poster, Oral intake Guidelines, falls equipment and medicine optimisation.

Team: Dr Chris Leggett – Co chair and Primary Care GP; Frailty Network – Sandra Aitcheson, Alison Patterson and Amy Dougan; Caroline Lecky, Care homes Nurse Consultant; Mary Emerson-AHP Lead PHA; AHP Falls Leads-5 Trusts; Chris Clarke-NIAS Paramedic; 18 Pilot Care Homes; Care Home residents; Johnny Graham, Service User; Thomas McKeever, Relative; Emily Wilson, Relative; AHP Care Home staff-Trusts; ECCF team-DOH, Ceara Gallagher - AHP Consultant

“ The judges thought this project showed excellent patient involvement and excellent outcomes for service users: ambitious targets set and met. ”

CONTACT:

ceara.gallagher@hscni.net

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

The Project Team



Rapid exome sequencing for patients in NI

Shane McLaughlin and **Seamus Duffy**, bioinformaticians; **Conor Sharkey**, trainee clinical scientist; **William Wright**, **Rosalind Martin**, **Padraig Hart**, clinical scientists; **Caomhe McKenna**, registrar, and colleagues, NI regional genetics service, Belfast

The team were awarded £24,000 by the RQIA to support a QI project delivering a modern advancement in genetic testing for unwell infants. They doubled their diagnostic yield and significantly reduced the turnaround in this cohort. It has also prompted the development of an in-house exome service. The QI project developed a lasting infrastructure, and rapid exome sequencing is now established as routine practice for unwell infants with a suspected genetic diagnosis.

Contact:

caomhez.mckenna@belfasttrust.hscni.net

FINALISTS



Diabetes Remission Programme: a NI pilot

Lara Jackson, advanced practice diabetes dietitian, **Dr Harper**, Consultant Endocrinologist, **Kate Jenkinson**, advanced practice diabetes dietitian, **Eliz McKnight**, head of nutrition and dietetic service, South Eastern

Type 2 diabetes represents a major burden on the health and care services and its increasing prevalence poses a major risk to population wellbeing and the sustainability of the NHS. This pilot aims to shape the development of a NI-wide type 2 diabetes remission service.

Contact: lara.jackson@setrust.hscni.net



Prehabilitation for arthroplasty patients awaiting surgery

Carmel Tierney, clinical team lead physiotherapist orthopaedics, Musgrave Park Hospital, Belfast

Orthopaedic waiting lists in Northern Ireland are at an all time high. Patients suffering with chronic arthritic conditions are continuing to wait years for life changing surgery to improve their quality of life. The team implemented prehabilitation for service users awaiting a total knee replacement. The results were impressive.

Contact: carmel.tierney@belfasttrust.hscni.net

AWARD FOR CREATIVE AND INNOVATIVE PRACTICE

WINNER

TeamHaem goes green

Claire Forde, occupational therapist and Patricia McGrath, social worker, Belfast

Team Haem Goes Green was a pilot project undertaken with service users, the haemophilia occupational therapist, social worker and The Conservation Volunteers (TCV). This new initiative aimed to improve physical and mental wellbeing through engagement with the natural environment, connecting with others, and acquiring new skills.

Haemophilia is a chronic health condition which can result in physical and psychological symptoms which affect an individual's everyday functioning and quality of life. TCV 'Green Gyms' are a well-established group-based outdoor activity, recognised by the Department of Health and GPs as impacting positively on participants physical and mental wellbeing and promoting an overall healthier lifestyle (Green Gym Evaluation Report 2016). They approached TCV to explore a project that would benefit service users, with an initial questionnaire circulated to patients canvassing opinions on participation in an outdoor gardening group. From the 40 questionnaires returned, 14 respondents

wanted to engage with the project and 6 proceeded to engage on a 7- week project hosted at a TVC/BHSCT site. The level of physical activity was set at a suitable level based on risk assessments by both the haemophilia team and TCV. The pilot group engaged in a range of gardening activities, including planting, creating, restoring and maintenance of the green site. Group participants completed weekly post session evaluation forms with questionnaires on physical activity and mental wellbeing completed at alternate sessions.

“ The judges thought this was a great example of thinking outside the box – a truly co-produced and co-designed project with potential for it to be replicated across other patient groups. ”



CONTACT:

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Patricia.McGrath@belfasttrust.hscni.net

FINALISTS



Dysphagia Telehealth pilot

Adult Speech and Language Therapy, Northern

A telehealth dysphagia clinic was created in July 2022, to target the significant 2- year wait that patients who are diagnosed with dysphagia during their hospital admission faced. 60% of referrals have returned to their baseline eating and drinking recommendations at this virtual clinic, 8 weeks after their hospital discharge.

Contact:

rebecca.dardis@northerntrust.hscni.net



'You will be found': Music Therapy led choir

Emma Hamer, music therapist, Every Day Harmony Music Therapy

The project was a music therapy-led choir in a CAMHS inpatient unit. This has never been done before in this setting, but offered a rare opportunity for staff and young people to come together and sing, interact, raise mood levels and have fun.

Contact: emma@everydayharmony.org



Northern's NHS Laboratory

Gerard Duffy, laboratory manager, Philip Logue, biomedical scientist and Aaron Niblock, haematologist, Northern

Over the past year, 5 biomedical scientists and medical staff have completed masters. The most important one was cryoglobulins new methodology discovering a high incidence of undiagnosed cryoglobulin in Lymphoma resulting in international publications and a change in practice.

Contact: gerard.duffy@northerntrust.hscni.net

AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN A SUPPORT ROLE

SPONSORED BY THE ACADEMY FOR HEALTHCARE SCIENCE

WINNER

Service User-led Addictions Management Group

Rachel Kane, clinical assistant, Leonard Cheshire

Rachel co-facilitates a weekly addictions management group in the ARBI Unit, with a service user. The group is offered to the 14 residents in the unit, all of whom have experienced an alcohol related brain injury as a result of chronic, heavy use of alcohol. The ARBI Unit is primarily a cognitive rehabilitation facility for adults who have an alcohol related brain injury diagnosis.

It was acknowledged that the service users struggled to access mainstream addictions services due to their cognitive deficits. They therefore established an in-house addictions group, co-facilitated with Inspire addiction service. Unfortunately, Inspire did not have funding to continue the group but it was still very much needed. Rachel decided to

continue to offer the group, having learnt many skills from working with Inspire, but she thought it would be more valuable for residents to learn from each other, rather than the clinical assistant. She therefore established a service user-led, addictions management group, with the support of two resident volunteers. While she offers the structure for the group, she strongly encourages the service user to lead the group. She meets with them before hand to agree the week's topic and helps them create notes to prompt themselves, but tries to let the group flow naturally depending on participation. She encourages the service user to ask questions, offer their experiences and support other residents to engage.

“ The judges chose this winner because they used their skills and knowledge to support service users to build capacity to lead peer support. A project which has shown drive, innovation and transferability. ”

CONTACT:

rachel.kane@leonardcheshire.org

FINALISTS



SEDS Queen

Rachel McCullough, speech and language therapy assistant, South Eastern

Rachel McCullough is a speech and language therapy assistant within the AHP Care Home Support Team. Rachel has been instrumental in the development and delivery of the Safer Eating Drinking and Swallow (SEDS) programme for nursing homes, which assures quality and safety of dysphagia care in more than 50 homes.

Contact:

Rachel.mccullough@setrust.hscni.net



Introduction of community associate practitioners into the community discharge service

Kerry Thompson, Belfast

The introduction of the CAP role was in response to the service not meeting key performance indicators regarding first response times and associated lengthy wait for OT and physio assessment. The development of this role was to undertake tasks that did not require a qualified therapist, freeing therapy capacity for new assessments.

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Kerry.Thompson@belfasttrust.hscni.net

AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP



SPONSORED BY THE INSTITUTE OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE

WINNERS

Dietetic contributions to transforming care in gastroenterology

Joy Whelan, gastroenterology dietitian, Western and Elizabeth O'Connor, gastroenterology dietitian, Southern

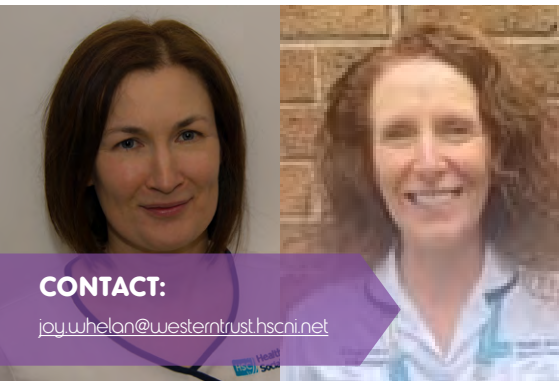
Gastroenterology dietitians developed Dietitian Led Coeliac Clinics (DLCCs) and Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS) Services in line with Regional Care Pathways to reduce the gastroenterology waiting lists and allow redistribution of consultant care to more urgent cases. Collaboration resulted in a combined wealth of experience and

benefited from shared ideas.

Evolving and transforming patient care has presented exciting opportunities to develop dietitians' roles. In 2019, Gastroenterology dietitians were tasked across the region to develop DLCCs and IBS Services in line with Regional Care Pathways produced for the Regional Gastroenterology Transformation Plan 2018/19. Different models of care have been adopted across the region dependent on population, clinician preference and resources available.

Benefits include reduction in consultant caseload, consultation with an advanced practitioner dietitian experienced in the area and trained specifically for the role with some practitioners having become supplementary prescribers.

It has improved information, support and accessibility for patients.



CONTACT:

joy.whelan@westerntrust.hscni.net

FINALIST



Team Recruitment and retention

Rachel Cassidy, Team lead occupational therapist, Belfast

Reablement has struggled with recruitment and retention of occupational therapists for many years and more recently with reablement support workers also. The management team and senior OTs have therefore focused on what can be done to successfully recruit staff and once recruited what needs to be done to retain them.

Contact: rachel.cassidy@belfasttrust.hscni.net

“ The judges chose this as the AHP winner because it showed excellent use of advanced practice to free up consultant time with fantastic evidence of upskilling and a collaborative approach ”

Blood Production and Tracking (BPAT) Project

Patrick Breen, Business Services, Organisation Information Technology Services

The Blood Production and Tracking Project (BPAT) is a unique opportunity for Northern Ireland to introduce a 'vein to vein' electronic traceability system from blood donation to final fate. This will deliver benefits such as improved patient safety, enhanced processes, and improved donor experience with a

modernised blood supply chain.

The BPAT Project forms part of the Northern Ireland Pathology Information Management System Programme, which is the regional pathology transformation programme implementing one laboratory information management system across Northern Ireland's 5 Trusts serving a population of 1.9 million. The programme will deliver benefits of standardisation, improved patient safety and clinical information. Each week in NI, around 500 people need a life saving blood transfusion, and there are almost 800 blood donation sessions per year at around 180 locations. Since 2019, a project team has been in place, developing an Outline Business Case (OBC) and Statement of Requirements (SoR) in order to enter procurement for the new solution.

“ The judges chose this as the healthcare science winner because they saw it as a well-led important project with huge impact on patient care, strong leadership and partnership working. ”



CONTACT:

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AWARD FOR RISING STARS

SPONSORED BY UNITE THE UNION



Rebecca McVeigh



Radiographer, Belfast – whose intelligence, enthusiasm and capability for hard work make her a future leader.

Katharine Hand



Orthoptist, South Eastern – who goes the extra mile to ensure patients are seen in a timely manner and care is of the highest standard.

Lara O'Neill



Occupational therapist, Belfast – patients say: 'She gives fantastic help and advice'.

Kerry Quinn



Dietitian, Western – who thrives on new challenges.

Charlotte Campbell



Speech and language therapist, South Eastern – the definition of an excellent therapist.

Juliette McCartney



Occupational therapist, Belfast – always seeking to advance her skills and learn from experience.

Lara McGoldrick



&

Niamh Fallon



Physiotherapists, Belfast – both passionate about patient care and physiotherapy.

Chloe Morris



Speech and language therapist, Ulster Hospital – calm, professional, confident, flexible and diligent.

ULSTER UNIVERSITY OUTSTANDING UNDERGRADUATE OF THE YEAR AWARD



WINNER

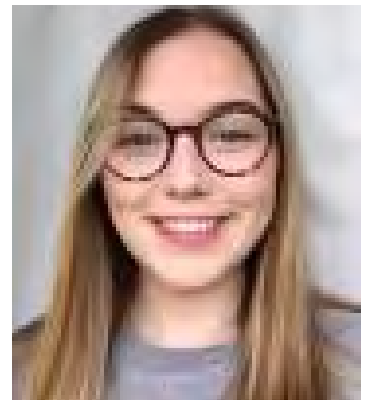
Claire Hawthorne, Speech and language therapy



FINALISTS



Ellen Watterson,
Diagnostic radiography and imaging



Molly Somerville,
Radiotherapy and oncology

**Health Sciences
at Magee.**
Educating healthcare practitioners
for today and tomorrow.
Be part of it.

Ulster University | Faculty of Life and Health Sciences

The advertisement features a background image of the Magee Hospital building, a large Gothic-style stone structure with multiple spires and windows. The text is overlaid on the left side in white and yellow. The Ulster University logo and the Faculty of Life and Health Sciences name are in the bottom right corner.

THE PATRICIA BLACKBURN AWARD FOR SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION AND ACHIEVEMENT

WINNER

Bronagh Monaghan, podiatrist

Bronagh was the regional podiatry lead who identified the need to address the service gaps in diabetes foot care. Over the past 35 years she has lobbied the Department of Health, worked with commissioners, co-designed a population-based clinical model, secured funding and led the implementation of the regional diabetes foot pathway.

The award is in memory of Patricia Blackburn who was an orthoptist, an AHP commissioner in the legacy Southern Board and the Chief AHP Officer in the Department of Health. She was one of the very first people in an AHP post in Northern Ireland and was a key person in the development of the AHP community as we know it today. She was a true inspiration. The fact we are making this award 13 years after her untimely death is a true testament to her impact.



“ It is a prestigious recognition to an allied health professional who has made an outstanding and enduring contribution in their field of work of clear benefit to patient care. ”

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR JUDGES

Joanna Andrew

IBMS President Elect

Caroline Baisley

South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust

Austen Blackburn

Family member of Patricia Blackburn

Charlie Blackburn

Family member of Patricia Blackburn

Jill Bradley

*Assistant Director, AHP Governance,
Northern Health and Social Care Trust*

Judy Bradley

*Professor of Physiotherapy and
Director of Clinical Research Facility*

Allister Campbell

*Chair, Allied Health Professions Federation
Northern Ireland*

Donna Fitzsimmons

*Professor at the School of Nursing
and Midwifery,
Queen's University Belfast*

Alison Geddis

IBMS ex-President

Mandy Gilmore

*Head of Service,
Southern Health & Social Care Trust*

Mo Henderson

*Chief Allied Health Professions
Information Officer / encompass lead,
Northern Health & Social Care Trust*

Janet Horan

*Head of Podiatry Services,
Northern Health and Social Care Trust*

Jennifer Howard

South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust

Jane Hughes

*Partnership Manager,
Macmillan Cancer Support*

Debra Padgett

IBMS President

Jenni Patterson

South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust

Fiona McCallion

*Assistant Head of HSC Clinical Education
Centre*

Peter McCauley

Retired Service Leader

Glen McDowell

IBMS NI Council member

Hilary McFaul

*Professional Lead Speech & Language
Therapy, Southern Health & Social Care Trust*

Elizabeth McKnight

*Head of Nutrition & Dietetics,
South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust*

John McLuckie

Retired Biomedical Scientist

Gordon McNair

IBMS Treasurer

Ruth Sedgewick

*Head of the Royal College of Speech Language
Therapy Northern Ireland*

Sarah Smith

*Chief Nursing Officers Directorate,
Scottish Government*

Dale Spence

*Assistant Head of HSC Clinical Education
Centre*

Michelle Tennyson

*Deputy Director of Nursing, Midwifery & Allied
Health Professions, Public Health Agency*



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