

Staff Headlines

22nd February 2024

New Year Honours 2024 Recipients

We want to take the opportunity to express our warmest congratulations to colleagues in the Education sector who were recognised in the New Year Honours List 2023 for their valuable contribution to the Education sector in Northern Ireland. They included:

Order of the British Empire (OBE):

- **Mrs Kathleen O'Hare**, for services to education - Board Member, Belfast Metropolitan College and Member, Northern Ireland Council for the Curriculum.

Members of the Order of the British Empire (MBE):

- **Mr Michael Allen**, for services to education - Principal, Lisneal College.
- **Mrs Kimberley (Kim) Louise Scott**, for services to education - recently Assistant Director of Education, Education Authority (EA).

Members of the Order of the British Empire (MBE):

- **Mrs Joy Henrietta Mary Coalter**, for services to education - recently Building and Cleaning Supervisor, Brookeborough Primary School.
- **Mr Kenneth Matthew Gillespie**, for service to Young People through Scouting.
- **Ms Lesley Porter**, for services to Reconciliation in Northern Ireland - Principal's Personal Assistant, Oakgrove Integrated College.
- **Mrs Janet Thompson**, for services to the Scouting Movement in Northern Ireland.

Well done to all recipients recognised on the New Year Honours List 2024.

The full list of New Year Honours award recipients can be viewed on the [NI Direct website](#).



Children Looked after Champion receives MBE

Anne-Marie Bagnall, Head of the EA Primary Children Looked After Advisory Service and Children Looked After Champion in Education attended Windsor Castle on the 19th of December 2023 to receive her MBE from King Charles III.



Anne-Marie is passionate about transforming services for children who are looked after in order to achieve the best outcomes for a very vulnerable group of children. Most recently, Anne-Marie has overseen the development and implementation of the Primary Children Looked After Advisory Service. Initially run as a pilot project, it has been fully operational since January 2023.

Anne-Marie said:

"I was humbled and honoured to receive an MBE from King Charles III. This was a special experience for myself and my family. A huge thank you to the Department of Education (DE) for the nomination and their continued commitment to Children Looked After."

It truly has been a privilege to take on the role of Children Looked After Champion within the Education Authority and to drive forward transformational change in Education alongside the most inspirational group of Children, an amazing and committed team and management, the entire care network around Children Looked After and interagency partners, including the Belfast Health & Social Care Trust - Children's Psychological Service.

Our work to date is just the beginning of the journey. Together, we have so much to achieve with and for Children Looked After across Northern Ireland.

Sincere thanks to all for your support and commitment to Children Looked After."

Nicola Topping, Head of Pupil Wellbeing Services, said:

"We are delighted that Anne-Marie has received this honour. Children are always at the centre of her work, and she has always strived for excellence in the transformation and delivery of services for them. The invaluable work undertaken by Anne-Marie and the whole service has been recognised with this award. Well done to all!"

More information regarding the service can be found on the [Primary Children Looked After Advisory Service page on the EA website](#).

'Listen Up' video launch supported by Carl Frampton

NI Former Professional Boxer Carl Frampton attended and spoke at the recent launch event at St Patrick's Academy, for a suicide awareness video to be used as a learning resource to support schools.

The video - called 'Listen up' - was created by four schools - St. Patrick's Academy, Lisnagarvey High School, St. Colm's High School and Malone Integrated College - as part of their priority to focus on children and young people's mental health and in particular suicide prevention.

The project was funded by Choice Housing and was produced by ALPs Suicide Prevention Charity.

The video will be used by EA as part of a teacher professional learning resource, which will be offered to all schools, to better equip school staff to deal with a child in a mental health crisis.

The main focus of the video is to empower parents to act when a child is showing signs of suicidal thoughts or crisis. It debunks some myths around what is appropriate to say and do and what is not. It provides a valuable guide to recognising the symptoms of a suicidal crisis, as well as specific steps to getting and providing help.

Read more about the event and watch the video on the [EA News webpage](#).



Carl Frampton with pupils from St. Patrick's Academy, Lisnagarvey High School, St. Colm's High School and Malone Integrated College, Nicola Topping EA, Pat Carville EA, Jim Weir EA, CF, Roisin Clarke VP of St. Patrick's Academy, Grainne McCann Principal of St. Patrick's Academy.

The Age of Identity Conference

The EA, in partnership with the Association of Education Advisers (AoEA) hosted a prestigious conference on 'The Age of Identity' facilitated by Professor Andy Hargreaves from Ottawa, Canada and Les Walton from Newcastle, England, CEO of the Association.

In attendance were school leaders, EA colleagues and associates from partner organisations in education, who are engaged in a professional development and accreditation programme with the AoEA. The EA also welcomed invited guests from CCEA, ETI and DE, as well as members of the 'A Fair Start' Expert Panel.

Les Walton, an experienced former school leader, author and adviser to successive governments, presented on the theme of 'Empowering Leadership'. He focussed on developing a positive climate for change, on removing the barriers to change and on making the most of levers to drive change.

Professor Andy Hargreaves, one of the most renowned and widely-respected academics working in education today, challenged our thinking with an engaging and highly topical presentation and discussion, based on themes from his most recent book entitled 'The Age of Identity'.

The conference was organised by the School Development Service and is aligned to a professional development programme with AoEA, focussing on school improvement. Initially for colleagues in EA and partner organisations working in this field, the programme was made available to school leaders through funding from 'A Fair Start'. Over the past three years, and despite the enormous and ever-increasing challenges faced day on day by principals, we have the engagement of 144 school leaders in the learning and development programme. Over 80 school leaders are accredited Associates, and the remainder are working towards accreditation.

All colleagues involved are now part of an ever-growing network and knowledge base of system leaders and advisors across the UK and further afield. We look forward to continued partnership working and to sharing the learning for the benefit of the children and young people in our schools.



Left to Right is Les Walton MBE, Chair of AoEA; Ray Steele, AoEA Development Group; Mairéad Mhig Uaid, EA SDS; Prof Andy Hargreaves; Mary Lowery, Head of Service, EA SDS; John Unsworth, AD EA SDS

EdIS Newsletter Winter 2024

The latest edition of the EdIS Newsletter is available online now. Join the EdIS journey and read the inspiring updates and progress from our project teams, driving positive change within education. Highlights include:

- Strategic Partner and School Management System (SPSMS) Contract Award.
- EdIS Spotlights showcasing EdIS-led initiatives in schools.
- How EA Connect has been enhancing the delivery of key EA services.

To read the full newsletter and to watch EdIS Spotlights, please visit [EdIS Newsletter Winter 2024](#)



Christmas Family Food Appeal 2023 - Success!

Enabling our staff in schools and services to 'Give Back' to their local communities during the Christmas period resulted in yet another very successful **EA Charity Campaign**.

Together we donated over **One Tonne** of food items, toiletries and household cleaning products. This resulted in **2,679 meals** that reached children, young people and their families who needed it most.

Every Food Bank we supported expressed their profound thanks to all staff who championed the appeal in whatever way they could. We would also like offer a special mention and thanks to EA Staff who volunteered their time to assist the Food Banks during the Christmas period.

Message from Carol Izzard, Dundonald Food Bank:
"Please pass on our sincere thanks and gratitude to the staff within the Education Authority. We really appreciate it!"



Employers for Disability NI (EFDNI) Information Sessions

The Equality and Human Rights Unit's Disability Employment Support Service (DESS) invites you to attend online information sessions during March delivered by Employers for Disability NI (EFDNI).

These events are open to all EA staff, including school-based (teaching and non-teaching) and corporate staff.

EFDNI will be running these sessions as Microsoft Teams webinar meetings, and the session topics and dates are listed below.

You can get further information and register by clicking the topic title below.

- Friday 1st March 2024, 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm, [Neurodiversity \(Part 2\) - Dyslexia, Dyscalculia and Dyspraxia](#)
- Tuesday 5th March 2024, 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm, [Hearing Loss](#)
- Friday 15th March 2024, 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm. [Reasonable Adjustments](#)

The calendar invite will be issued automatically as soon as you have registered, if you don't receive it please check you have used the correct email address. If you have used the correct email address and you still have not received your calendar invite, please check your IT settings have not filtered the invitation email to your junk/spam mailbox.

For more information or if you have any queries, please email: equality.unit@eani.org.uk



Lunch & Learn

Remaining February sessions

- **Thursday 22nd February: Lunch and Learn 168: LGBTQA+ History Month**
How February was designated LGBT+ History month by the Schools OUT organisation, its link with education sector and the various themes covered. The 2024 theme is Medicine & Healthcare.
- **Thursday 29th February: Lunch and Learn 169: Invisible Traffick's Junior Education Programme**
This session will outline the issue human trafficking in Northern Ireland and explain what we do to raise awareness of this in order to safeguard children and young people.

[Book your place here](#)

As part of our delivery of Lunch and Learn we have recorded a number of the sessions, if you have missed one or would just like to see what's on offer please [access the Lunch and Learn Channel](#) or alternatively join the [Lunch and Learn Team Site](#) (only available to those with EA login).

Those without an EANI login can access recorded content by logging in to: [EA SDS](#) and using Invite Code: 2790sl

Please enjoy these bite-sized learning opportunities and if you would like to contribute please get in touch at LunchandLearn@eani.org.uk



We want to hear from you

If you have any news or stories that you would like to be considered for inclusion in an upcoming edition of Staff Headlines, email comms@eani.org.uk

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