

25th April 2024

Message from new Chief Executive

It is both a great privilege and a great responsibility to lead the organisation over the next three years and to continue the work to inspire, support and challenge all of our children to be the best they can be.

I am acutely aware of the many challenges you face on a daily basis, not least the unprecedented financial pressures, and the many areas where increasing demand on schools and services simply outstrip the resources available.

I am also very aware of your talent, commitment and experience in navigating such challenges on a daily basis, finding innovative solutions, and always keeping children at the very centre of everything you do.

I know this work is far from easy, so can I sincerely thank you and all of your teams for the difference you make.

In moving forward, I am firmly committed to building on the strong foundations and continuing the vital work to transform and collectively and collaboratively develop a modern and responsive education system that delivers for all.

In doing so, there will be further opportunities to continue to strengthen relationships and trust with children and young people, schools, staff, parents and carers and wider stakeholders, ensuring their voices and experiences are the cornerstone of how we shape future priorities and services.

I very much look forward to meeting and working with you in the future.

Regards,
Richard Pengelly



New Members to Board of EA

The Education Minister Paul Givan announced the appointment of 12 members to the Board of the Education Authority (EA). Six new members have been appointed with six reappointed.

The recruitment process is now concluded, and we are delighted to welcome **Mrs Edith Shaw, Mr John Wilkinson OBE, Mrs Marie Lindsay, Mr Arthur Scott, Mrs Eilís Uí Néill and Mr Trevor Robinson OBE** to the EA Board to build on the significant work taken forward in transforming services.

We would also like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the six outgoing Board Members. Those who have recently completed the full term of their tenure are:

- Mrs Sarah Kelly
- Miss Rosemary Rainey
- Miss Frances Boyd
- Mr Liam Ó Flannagáin
- Mr Gerry Lundy
- Mr Kieran Mulvenna



Pictured with EA Chairperson Barry Mulholland (centre) are outgoing EA Board Members (LtoR) Frances Boyd, Kieran Mulvenna, Sarah Kelly, Gerry Lundy and Rosemary Rainey - Liam Ó Flannagáin (missing from photo).

As an organisation we thank them for their valuable contributions over their many years of service and for their unwavering commitment to inspire, support and challenge all our children and young people to be the best that they can be. We wish them well in all future endeavours.

Full details of the Board membership including profiles can be [viewed on the EA website](#).

For more information, please visit the Department of Education website: [Minister appoints new members to Board of the Education Authority](#)

WomenEdNI Unconference

Edmund Rice College Glengormley recently hosted the **9th Annual WomenEdNI #IWD2024 Unconference**. Discussions included Diversity of Women Leaders in Education and Representation of Women Leaders in Education with EA's Shared Education and Sectoral Support Officer Jason Arbuckle presenting on 'Ways to Wellbeing: Kindness to self and others' telling his own Mental Health journey through and beyond PTSD.

It was an inspiring and day with such a positive feeling of openness. The next Unconference will be in September 2024.



First Blood Donation event at EA Premises

EA partnered with the Northern Ireland Blood Transfusion Service (NIBTS) to facilitate its first ever Blood Donation event which took place recently in EA's Omagh Technology Centre (TEC), making it accessible for EA staff and the communities we work in to donate blood.

Aoife O'Neill, EA Health and Wellbeing Project Manager, said: "With new blood donors needed now more than ever, we were delighted to welcome EA staff and the public to their appointments to give blood by using EA premises to make this happen."

Aoife added: "Supporting the NIBTS in whatever way we can is something we continue to do and knowing that each blood donation saves three lives is a testimony to why our staff prioritise giving back in this way."

Karin Jackson, Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Blood Transfusion Service, said: "NIBTS is delighted with the support from the EA, helping to promote and host a blood donation session for both new and existing donors in the Omagh area. We look forward to continuing this invaluable partnership. We are always looking to develop partnerships with localities across Northern Ireland, so if other organisations wish to host a blood donation session in their area, they can contact us through the [nibts.org enquiry form](https://www.nibts.org/enquiry-form) to explore this further. One donation helps save three local lives."

Northern Ireland needs 1200 blood donors every week. That's roughly 1 every 8 minutes. Booking your appointment to donate blood is quick and easy – just like giving blood! Visit www.nibts.org or text BLOOD TO 60081.

[Watch our short video](#) featuring Julie Ferry, EA Health & Wellbeing Project Manager, on her blood donation journey at EA Omagh TEC.

Stay tuned for information on further events.



NIBTS staff pictured with Julie Ferry, EA Health & Wellbeing Project Manager at the first blood donation event on EA Premises (Omagh TEC).

EdIS Roadshow – Strategic Partner and School Management System



The EdIS team recently held Strategic Partner and School Management System (SPSMS) Roadshows across Northern Ireland for school leaders and education professionals.

These roadshows provided information on the SPSMS solution and featured contributions from Fujitsu, Bromcom, C2k, Microsoft, Google and Adobe.

To watch videos of all the key presentations please [click here](#)



Work Starts on 3G Pitch at Banbridge HS

Work recently commenced at Banbridge High School on a new £1.8m 3G sports pitch for students and the local community.

The project includes a full size 3G synthetic pitch complete with floodlighting, fencing and a changing pavilion, which will be operated on a dual use basis with Banbridge High School during the day and Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough (ABC) Council managing the facility for community use.

The project is funded through £1.6m investment from ABC Council and Department for Communities is the lead partner on the 'Your School Your Club' initiative, with funding of £225,000 distributed through Sport NI.

To read the full story, please visit the [EA News page](#).



EA Healthwell Programme Term 3

EA's HealthWell Programme Term 3 is now available for all EA staff (schools and services), and contains the latest health and wellbeing initiatives, sessions and campaigns taking place from **April to June 2024**.

You can access the programme via [EA's HealthWell Hub - Health & Wellbeing April - June 2024 \(eani.org.uk\)](#), and any queries can be directed to EA's Health & Wellbeing Team by emailing healthandwellbeing@eani.org.uk or by calling 028 9041 8023.

www.healthwell.eani.org.uk



Lunch & Learn

Remaining April session

- Thursday 25th April, Lunch and Learn 175: Mid Antrim Animal Sanctuary: What do we do?**
 The mid Antrim sanctuary will introduce you to the good work they do in rescuing and rehoming animals. They will also look at how you can volunteer and help in this worthwhile cause through adoption and/or fostering homeless animals.

Speaker: Mid Antrim Animal Sanctuary

All sessions are delivered via MS Teams beginning at 12:30 pm

[Click here to book on EA Learn](#) (only available to those with EA Login) School based staff please email LunchandLearn@eani.org.uk

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



EA Music Service Spring Concert, Omagh



EA Music Service recently held its annual Spring Concert in the Strule Theatre, Omagh.

Over 120 young musicians took to the stage to perform to a sold out theatre, with the audience enjoyed many genres of music from the Magnificent Seven to Dance the Night by Dua Lipa to classics from Bach & Beethoven.

The finale was a rousing performance of the theme from the new Wonka movie - much to the delight of the audience!

EA launches good practice guide for schools working with newcomer families

EA recently launched a good practice guide for schools with newcomer children and young people enrolled, to best support principals, teachers, and support staff.

The guide has been developed by the EA in partnership with school staff in a number of schools across Northern Ireland who have experience in working with newcomer children and young people, and provides practical advice for schools when working with children and young people who are asylum seekers or refugees, in order to best support them on a range of issues including integration, language acquisition and dealing with trauma.

To read the full story and view more photographs, please visit the [EA News page](#).



Four EA Social Workers recognised in BASW's Social Worker Awards

EA is proud to announce that four members of staff have received a nationwide award run by the British Association of Social Workers (BASW), in recognition of their outstanding contribution to the social work profession.

Adrian Nugent and Naomi Coupland from EA's Child Welfare Service and Lorraine O'Neill and Therese Moran from EA's Child Protection Support Service were recognised for their hard work and significant contribution to social work within Education.

To read the full story, please visit the [EA News page](#).



Adrian Nugent
Education Authority
Northern Ireland
Nominated by Colin Reid
A celebration of social work



Lorraine O'Neill
Education Authority
Nominated by Elaine Craig
A celebration of social work



Naomi Coupland
Education Authority
Northern Ireland
Nominated by Alain Samuel Douglas
A celebration of social work



Therese Moran
Child Protection Support Service,
Education Authority
Nominated by Michael Kelly
A celebration of social work

Creative Voices: What Autism Means to Me

EA is delighted to showcase the 'Creative Voices: What Autism Means to Me' exhibition at Burnavon Theatre, Cookstown.

This fantastic free exhibition is on until 29th April 2024 and features over 140 pieces of artwork created by autistic pupils from post primary schools across Northern Ireland.

Led by our Autism Advisory and Intervention Service, the exhibition aims to empower autistic young people, and provide them with an opportunity to showcase their creative talents and to express what autism means to them from their personal perspective. Our overall objective is to promote a better understanding and acceptance of autism within the wider community.



Reminder of Changes to EA's Resourcing Service

From Monday 8th April 2024 a new service delivery model is operating and Schools and Corporate staff have been issued with information on these changes, and also on planning for the 2024/25 school year.

These changes include:

- The re-allocation of recruitment staff into **role-based teams**. *Each specialist role-based team are in place from Monday 8 April 2024, providing one point of contact, who will support and advise through each recruitment exercise from end to end.*
- The **pre-employment checking process** being embedded within each team rather than a separate team.

Full details including contact details for each role-based team for Corporate staff can be [accessed on Insite news](#), and full information was issued to Schools via Principal email on Tuesday 9th April 2024.

GLEaM Staff Network Roadshow

GLEaM is the EA Staff Network for LGBTQ+ and Friends. It is open to all EA staff.

GLEaM is currently hosting an in-person Roadshow of Events across North, South, East and West areas. This is a very informal opportunity to meet, connect, or reconnect with colleagues, and everyone is welcome, you don't have to be a member to join!

The remaining Roadshow dates are:

- **Thursday 2nd May 2024**, 2.00 pm - 3.30 pm at Carnbane Youth Resource Centre, 4 Carnbane Road, Newry, BT35 6QA
- **Wednesday 15th May 2024**, 10.00 am - 11.30 am in Conference Room 1 (CSS Room), Ground Floor, EA Belfast Office, 40 Academy Street, Belfast, BT1 2NQ

If you would like to attend, we would appreciate you letting us know by completing our [Registration Form](#).

However, we are mindful not all staff will have access to the link above, so you are welcome to come along on the day!

Participation in Staff Networks is permitted by the Education Authority as part of your working duties, and does not need to be taken in lieu of lunchbreaks, etc.

Finally, if you have any queries about the Roadshow, or the GLEaM Network in general, please get in touch with the Equality & Human Rights Unit at equality.unit@eani.org.uk



Princeton Poetry Professor visits Assumption GS

Professor Paul Muldoon, Professor of Poetry at Princeton and current Chair of Irish Poetry recently visited Assumption Grammar School, Ballynahinch to read to AS and A2 English Literature pupils.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable event with the school librarian, EA Senior Education Librarian, Mark Loudon; past and present members of the English Department and Professor Brian Walker from Queens University Belfast all present at the event.



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

Staff Headlines