

Emma Sheerin MLA invites you to attend:

Progressing an anti-poverty strategy for Northern Ireland - A half day seminar
10am to 1pm, Wednesday 28 June 2023, Room 115, Parliament Buildings, Stormont

Co-sponsors: Gerry Carroll MLA, Mike Nesbitt MLA,
Sinéad McLaughlin MLA, and Kate Nicholl MLA

#NIAntiPovertyStrategy

Northern Ireland has been waiting for an anti-poverty strategy for almost twenty years. The 2006 St Andrews Agreement contained a legal obligation for the NI Executive to develop a strategy to tackle poverty, social exclusion, and patterns of deprivation based on objective need. In 2015, following a judicial review taken by CAJ, the High Court found the Executive was acting unlawfully for not having yet adopted such a strategy. Progress was made during the last political mandate, with an expert advisory panel and co-design group established to take forward the development of an anti-poverty strategy. However, the Executive collapsed before the strategy could be implemented.

This joint seminar from the Equality Coalition, Barnardo's NI, and the Northern Ireland Anti-Poverty Network (NIAPN) will examine what progress has so far been made in developing an anti-poverty strategy for NI, while also considering how we can ensure the future strategy is as comprehensive and effective as possible.

AGENDA

10am - Coffee and registration

10.30am - Welcome and scene setting

- a) Welcome – Patricia McKeown, Regional Secretary, UNISON
- b) Opening remarks from event sponsors

11am – Where is Northern Ireland's anti-poverty strategy?

- a) Introduction (inc. event asks) – Trása Canavan, Senior Policy and Public Affairs Lead, Barnardo's NI
- b) The legal obligation for an anti-poverty strategy – Daniel Holder, Director, CAJ
- c) Update on the development of the anti-poverty strategy – George Sampson, Director of Central Policy, Department for Communities (DfC)

11.30am - Panel 1: The view from the Anti-Poverty Strategy Expert Advisory Panel

Panellists: Goretti Horgan, Lecturer in Social Policy, Ulster University; Pauline Leeson, Chief Executive, CiNI; and Bernadette McAliskey, Coordinator, STEP NI

12pm - Comfort break

12.15pm - Panel 2: Ensuring the voices of people experiencing poverty are heard

Panellists: Dr Ciara Fitzpatrick, Lecturer in Law, Ulster University; Dr Alexandra Chapman, Lecturer in Social Policy, Ulster University; Nuala Toman, Head of Policy, Disability Action; and John Patrick Clayton, UNISON /NIC ICTU

12.45pm - Next steps

1pm - Event close & lunch