



Introducing Our Panel Members

Godfrey Young A social worker by profession, Godfrey worked for over 30 years in children's services within the former Sperrin Lakeland HSCT and its predecessors. He held a range of managerial positions including responsibility for services to looked after children. His desire to improve outcomes for looked after children and their carers resulted in the creation of the first therapeutic team for looked after children in the western area. He then moved on to manage a private therapeutic residential child care service for children in the Republic of Ireland. For the past 9 years he has worked as a designated officer for child protection within the former Western Education & Library Board which has now become the Education Authority (EA). He is currently the interim Head of the EA Child Protection Support Service which provides daily child protection/safeguarding advice and training for designated staff in schools and other EA services. He represents EA on a number of Safeguarding Boards(NI) Committees and Panels. Godfrey is the proud father of 2 adult children and 2 young grand-children.

Marie Dunne is Registered Mental Health Nurse with 36 years' experience. She has worked in a range of settings that support individuals and families in the area of mental health. Her present role is as a mental health promotion specialist working in the health improvement department in the Western Health and Social Care Trust. This role involves working across all sectors including statutory, voluntary and community in the development of mental health and emotional wellbeing through education, training and partnership working. She has in the last 2 years introduced and developed the exciting and impacting 'Schools of Hope' program in schools across the north west. Marie is delighted in becoming a first time Grandmother this year.

Dr Sharon McElroy: Sharon undertook her psychology degree in Trinity College Dublin before doing a MA in Forensic Psychology in UCC Cork, she then completed her Doctorate in Trinity College Dublin. Most of her published research is on addictions and mood disorders. She has published a paper on ACE's (Adverse Childhood Experiences) and how they are moderated and mediated by coping style, support and emotional intelligence. Sharon worked in Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital, London for 4 years, as a psychology specialist with children with complex health needs. She returned to Ireland a few years ago to work in western trust. Most importantly as Sharon states 'I'm proud mummy of 2 wee boys'.