

Chapman, Allan

From: Jendoubi, Christine
Sent: 08 December 2012 20:27
To: 'j.mcelnay@qub.ac.uk'
Cc: Redmond, Bernie; Magowan, Neil; Deazley, Peter
Subject: Re: Autism Strategy Research Advisory Committee - invitation to nominate

Thank you very much, James. We'll look forward to working with Karola, and will be in touch with her directly with meeting details.

Cj

This was sent from my Blackberry Device.

From: James McElnay [<mailto:j.mcelnay@qub.ac.uk>]
Sent: Saturday, December 08, 2012 09:26 AM
To: Jendoubi, Christine
Subject: RE: Autism Strategy Research Advisory Committee - invitation to nominate

Christine

I would like to nominate Professor Karola Dillenburger for the committee. Her details are given below:

Room 14a
6 College Green
School of Education
Queen's University Belfast
Tel: 028 9097 5985
Fax: 028 9097 5066
Email: k.dillenburger@qub.ac.uk

Regards

James

Professor James C McElnay
Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research and Postgraduates
Vice-Chancellor's Office

028 9097 5221

From: Jendoubi, Christine [<mailto:Christine.Jendoubi@dhsspsni.gov.uk>]
Sent: 26 November 2012 13:15
To: James McElnay
Cc: McGarrity, Naomhin; Craughwell, Eva
Subject: Autism Strategy Research Advisory Committee - invitation to nominate

For Professor McElnay's attention please.

Cj

Christine Jendoubi (Mrs)
Director, Mental Health, Disability and Older People Policy | Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety | Room C4.1,

Christine Jendoubi
Director of Mental Health, Disability and Older People
Policy



Department of
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Tel: 02890 522388
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Email: christine.jendoubi@dhsspsni.gov.uk

Your Ref:
Our Ref:

26 November 2012

Dear Professor McElnay,

**MEMBERSHIP OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND AUTISM STRATEGY RESEARCH
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

As a result of the Autism Act (NI) 2011, the DHSSPS is leading on the development of a cross-departmental Autism Strategy and Action Plan for N.Ireland. A multi-agency Project Board was established to direct and manage the development of the draft Strategy and Action Plan which we anticipate will be launched for public consultation by the end of November 2012.

In parallel with this work, the Minister for Health Social Services and Public Safety decided that the Autism Strategy should establish a Research Committee. In recognition of her role in supporting the progress of the Autism Act, he invited Arlene Cassidy (CEO of Autism NI) to take on the role of chairperson of the Committee, which she accepted. As a subsidiary group of the Autism Strategy Project Board, an update from the Research Committee will be a standing item on the agenda of all Project Board meetings.

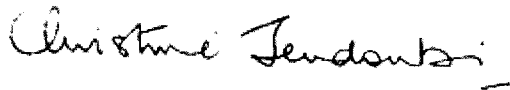
I am writing to you, in my capacity as the current Chairperson of the Autism Strategy Project Board, to seek a nomination of an appropriate person from Queen's University to become a member of the Autism Strategy Research Committee. I have

attached the final draft Terms of Reference for this group, which includes details of all the organisations which we are inviting nominations from.

Could I ask you please to forward your nomination to Naomhin McGarrity in the Autism Strategy Team in the Department (Naomhin.mcgarrity@dhsspsni.gov.uk) before **Friday 14 December 2012**? I anticipate that the initial meeting of the Committee will take place in early January 2013.

If you have any further queries in relation to this request, please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christine Jendoubi".

CHRISTINE JENDOUBI

Northern Ireland Autism Strategy Research Advisory Committee Draft Terms of Reference

The Research Advisory Committee is established to ensure that the most recent research findings are available:

- to the Project Board to inform development of the autism strategy and action plan; and
- to government departments and their agencies to inform the design, planning and delivery of services.

The Research Advisory Committee will:

- Advise on the implications of local, national and international autism research for the development of good practice within and across all service sectors and age ranges;
- Identify models of best practice/excellence in Northern Ireland as well as nationally and internationally;
- Create and develop links with researchers and research organisations, nationally and internationally, and encourage opportunities for mutual sharing of knowledge, expertise and resources;
- Provide an element of peer-review to proposed research projects submitted to the Project Board or under consideration by it;
- Identify funding sources for research across government including through the development of UK wide, EU and international links as well as through education and university partnerships;
- Establish appropriate links with other countries contributing to consideration of an autism strategy for Europe;
- Act as an information resource for Project Board members with respect to research findings, methodologies, etc and advise on research opportunities which the Project Board may propose;
- Agree with the Prevalence Data sub group appropriate arrangements for sharing information and utilising autism data for ongoing research;
- Link researchers with service providers and service users to enhance the relevance of the research studies undertaken;

- Provide updates to the Project Board at each meeting;
- Advise on pertinent research questions that will facilitate the implementation of the NI Autism Strategy and propose how such research might be taken forward;
- Support Departments as requested by them in evaluating the effectiveness and impact of the Autism Strategy.

In carrying out its research advisory role the Research Advisory Committee will not seek to espouse or promote a particular methodology in the care and/or treatment of people with autism.

MEMBERSHIP

The core membership of the Committee will comprise:

Chairperson Dr Arlene Cassidy (Appointed by Minister of DHSSPS)

Nominee from University of Ulster

Nominee from Queen's University of Belfast

Nominee from Middletown Centre for Autism

Nominee from the National Autistic Society

Nominee from Head of Research HSCNI

Nominee from Information Analysis Division at DHSSPS

Nominees should be requested on the basis that they will bring appropriate research background and skills to contribute to the Research Advisory Committee's work

The membership may be extended by co-option for particular purposes and periods as agreed between the Committee and the Department. The Committee may also invite named individuals to attend a meeting or meetings on an ad hoc basis to bring particular areas of expertise to bear on planned agenda items or aspects of the Committee's work.

In either case, and as for core members of the Committee, travel and subsistence expenses only will be payable, as approved by the Department in accordance with public expenditure rules.

FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS

The Committee will meet in advance of each meeting of the Autism Strategy Project Board or quarterly, whichever is the more frequent.

Secretarial support for the Research Advisory Committee will be provided by the Department.