

# Building bridges for evidence-informed public policy: young people and substance use

Report from a Higher Education Evidence for Public Policy Brokerage Event



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**Published by:**

Health Research Board, Dublin  
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Health Research Board  
Grattan House  
67–72 Lower Mount Street  
Dublin 2  
D02 H638  
Ireland

**t** 353 1 234 5000  
**f** 353 1 661 2335  
**e** hrb@hrb.ie  
**w** www.hrb.ie

# Abbreviations

CEO	chief executive officer
CSO	Central Statistics Office
DCEDIY	Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth
DETE	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment
DFHERIS	Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science
DoH	Department of Health
DPENDR	Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform
EMCDDA	European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction
EU	European Union
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulation
HRB	Health Research Board
HSE	Health Service Executive
NDP	National Development Plan
IUA	Irish Universities Association

# Acknowledgements

We extend our thanks to all those who presented at, chaired, or attended the plenary and brokerage sessions. Thanks to the staff of the IUA, in particular Kate Morris and Andrea Bruton, and the HRB, in particular Brian Galvin and Gillian Markey, for their work in organising and running the event. The report was written by Dr Claire O’Connell with support from Anne Doyle, Cathy Kelleher, and Lucy Dillon of the HRB.



Some **93%** of respondents felt the event provided a useful opportunity to build their network of researchers and policymakers working on the subject of drugs policy and substance use.



# 1 Introduction

On 17 November 2023, policymakers and higher education researchers and professional staff from the higher education sector met in Tangent, the Ideas Workspace in Trinity Business School, Trinity College Dublin. The overall objective was to kick-start an engagement process between policymakers and researchers on the topic of young people and substance use.

The meeting was designed to encourage closer relationships and to build trust and an understanding of existing and future policy needs on young people and substance use. These connections will also help to align new and existing evidence about young people and substance use with Government policy priorities. The event was organised by the Irish Universities Association (IUA) and the Health Research Board (HRB), who funded it.

## Who was there?

Some 108 people signed up for the event and 89 people attended on the day. They included:

- Policymakers from the Irish Government and civil service, including the Department of Justice; Department of Health (DoH); Health Service Executive (HSE); Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY); Department of Education; Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform (DPENDR); Department of the Taoiseach; Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science (DFHERIS); and Tusla
- Representatives from the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) and leaders from across civic society organisations working in communities
- Higher education sector researchers and staff from the Royal Irish Academy; University of Limerick; University College Cork; University College Dublin; Dublin City University; Technological University Dublin; University of Galway; Trinity College Dublin; Maynooth University; Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland University of Medicine and Health Sciences; and the Union of Students in Ireland, and
- Representatives from research-funding bodies such as Science Foundation Ireland, HRB, and HSE.

A full list of registered attendees is found in Appendix 1.

## Background and process

Ireland has a problem with substance use and young people are at risk. Data show that one in five people in Ireland aged 15–25 years has used illegal drugs (generally cannabis or cocaine) in the last year. Policymakers, researchers, and wider stakeholders now need to work more closely together to design, develop, and implement effective public policies that will prevent and address substance misuse in young people in Ireland.

To better mobilise research evidence for public policy, a series of ‘brokerage sessions’ was set up at the meeting. In each session, policymakers spoke about challenges relating to young people and substance use. The session then heard responses from researchers, which in turn opened wider discussions in the room. The themes of the brokerage sessions were:

- Supporting future thinking among policymakers and inspiring long-term strategies
- Early intervention and prevention policy and practice, and
- An engaged research approach to informing policy for young people at risk.

A list of recommendations arising from the sessions is available in Section 3.

## The plenary session

The half-day conference began with an introduction from Siobhán McArdle, DoH Assistant Secretary for Social Care, Mental Health, Drugs Policy and Unscheduled Care. She stated that evidence is essential in good decision-making in policy, and welcomed the new monitoring tools and approaches used by the HSE and HRB to assess threats and responses. She was encouraged by so many people coming together to share knowledge and to see how the research community can work with others to bring scientific knowledge and policy together.

HRB CEO, Dr Mairéad O’Driscoll spoke about drug use as a significant cause of preventable physical, emotional, and social harm. The HRB is working with partners, supporting research, and monitoring changes in drug use. This provides clear and timely evidence to support policy and change practice, and the HRB was involved in several contributions to the Citizens’ Assembly on Drugs Use in 2023.

Professor Norelee Kennedy, Vice President (VP) for Research at the University of Limerick and chair of the IUA VP/Deans of Research Standing Group, spoke about how we need to mobilise our extensive knowledge base and people power. This will ensure that all members of society are given the best chance of living as full a life as possible. She welcomed the diversity of colleagues in the room and encouraged everyone to work together and accelerate change.

Leonora Harty from the Evidence for Policy Unit, DFHERIS established in 2022, spoke about how Impact 2030, Ireland’s Research and Innovation Strategy, recognises the need for research and effective engagement in policymaking decisions that address key economic and societal challenges.<sup>1</sup> Furthermore, timely evidence plays a key role in developing and implementing policy, which needs to be supported by data and evaluation, stakeholder engagement, and the research expertise available in the public research system.

To achieve this, the Evidence for Policy Unit has been engaging with stakeholders across both the policy and higher education research communities to highlight good practice and examples of effective engagement and inform the development of a Higher Education Research Policy Engagement Framework. The ultimate goal is to make it easier for the civil service and academic researchers to share expertise and to work together for more effective public policies.

Topics raised in the Q&A included:

- How we need to balance top-down with bottom-up solutions and the needs of today with the needs of the coming decades
- The importance of engaged research, co-production, and representing user groups in the research ecosystem and across the research cycle
- How Ireland has achieved much success in the past in reducing the harmful consequences of opioid use and that we can be hopeful around today's challenges
- How we need greater mobility between the civil service and higher education sector. Co-funding models have worked in other countries to encourage collaboration and the Science Foundation Ireland Public Service Fellowship Programme<sup>2</sup> has generated interest and awareness, and
- How we need to harness the energy, connections, and sharing of knowledge from this event into the future.

## The brokerage sessions

The themes for the brokerage sessions were chosen following discussions within the HRB. Universities then identified expert researchers who could respond. Each of the 50-minute 'research evidence for policy' brokerage sessions included a short input from a policy 'challenger'. This was followed by responses from higher education researchers, who highlighted latest research empirical evidence, trends, and policy options in relation to the specific challenge.

The brokerage sessions were chaired by Mary Doyle, Visiting Fellow in Public Policy, Trinity College Dublin and a member of the Royal Irish Academy; Dr Fergal Lynch, Senior Lead, Government and Public Policy Engagement, University of Galway and former Secretary General DCEDIY; and Dr Orlaigh Quinn, former Secretary General, Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment (DETE).



## 2 The brokerage discussions

### Theme 1: Supporting future thinking among policymakers and inspiring long-term strategies

The chair of the discussion was Dr Fergal Lynch, Senior Lead, Government and Public Policy Engagement, University of Galway and former Secretary General DCEDIY.

#### Policy challengers

The policy challengers were Dr Nada Milisavljević, scientific coordinator for Fight against Crime and Terrorism (FCT) in the Innovation and Security Research Unit of the Directorate-General Migration and Home Affairs in the European Commission; and Dr Anna Sacio-Szymańska from 4CF The Futures Literacy Company, an expert in strategic foresight.

#### Key policy messages

Substance use distribution channels, composition, and treatment are always changing, and it is therefore a challenge to develop policies that will remain relevant and effective as when first implemented. Dr Milisavljević spoke about the need to adapt and project for future requirements, and to make sure that outputs are useful for stakeholders across the 27 member states of the European Union (EU). Effective communication is key because researchers and policymakers can use different vocabularies.

Policy challenges include how to ensure timely research input to policy. This is a fast-changing world where it is difficult to predict the future and establish meaningful foresight. Even from a technological point of view, she argues, how can we make sure we are ahead of new technologies and that we do not become obsolete. These are important factors to tackle at EU level and fresh ideas are needed.

Dr Sacio-Szymańska spoke about strategic foresight. It is important to use high-quality methods and to engage with experts, stakeholders, and decision-makers. It is also important to have advocates in organisations who can convene stakeholders; manage the policymakers' expectations of what can be done in a given time; create ownership of the process; and designate responsibility for the results. She used the analogy of a car journey, where the rear-view mirror can tell you about the route thus far, but you need to look to the road ahead to plan and progress towards your final destination.

#### Research responders

The research responders were Professor Eamon Keenan, National Clinical Lead, Addiction Services, HSE; Dr Michael Byrne, Head of Student Health Department, University College Cork; and Colette Murphy, Vice President for Welfare, Union of Students in Ireland.

#### Key research messages

In his response, Professor Keenan spoke about the complexity of substance use in young people, and how having timely information about drug trends allows you to anticipate future problems, alert, respond, and learn.

In Ireland, residues of substances in syringes and wastewater are monitored and data gathered from hospital emergency admissions. People are asked about substance use through web surveys and checking drugs at festivals – indeed back-of-house testing was rolled out at three different festivals in 2023.

The effectiveness of drug monitoring was demonstrated in 2023 with a spike in overdoses in Dublin. Stakeholders worked together quickly and identified the problem substance. Dublin City Council supported the erecting of warning signs around the city within 48 hours, and no further overdoses were reported from that incident. This showed how if relationships exist between researchers and stakeholders, they can respond together.

Dr Byrne spoke about the importance of working with student leaders to affect change. The 2021 Drug Use in Higher Education in Ireland Survey<sup>3</sup> is the most comprehensive research study in this area in the EU. It identified that each Higher Education Institute should have a policy, an action plan, a designated person, and open access to relevant HRB data.

Colette Murphy spoke about the strong views that students have on the need for a health-led approach and decriminalisation of drugs, as well as the importance of in-person engagement on the ground to combat misinformation.

#### Q&A highlights

- Support services and treatment should be informed by research data about substance use. Staff on the frontline and policymakers should have equitable access to research.
- Data collected is not always data used. Data should be harnessed to the greatest possible extent, and there are good data in the Irish context. National data are collected and accessible to researchers, which is an advantage not enjoyed by many larger countries. Harnessing the power of data should be ensured.
- Ireland has the benefit of being a small country that can roll out national initiatives.
- Sometimes a meaningful approach or angle has to be found; for example in the case of tackling vaping, environmental damage was a more effective approach than health to engage students at one Higher Education Institute.
- Research should be valued by policymakers in the policy formation process, and political context and time-frames need to be understood so that input to policy is enabled and not ignored.

Reflecting on the session, chair Dr Lynch said:

We heard about the importance of engaging positively, that this is not about finger-wagging; it is about genuine engagement with people to get everyone on board informing evidence-based policy.





## Theme 2: Early intervention and prevention policy and practice

The chair of the discussion was Mary Doyle, Visiting Fellow in Public Policy, Trinity College Dublin and a member of the Royal Irish Academy.

### Policy challengers

The policy challengers were Bridget Wilson, Principal Officer, Child Rights Policy Unit, DCEDIY; and Deaglán Ó Briain, Principal Officer, Community Safety Policy, Department of Justice.

### Key policy messages

Bridget Wilson referred to *Young Ireland: National Policy Framework for Children and Young People*.<sup>4</sup> This document was launched in November 2023 and looks to bring together the policy infrastructure relating to children in Ireland. One of the challenges for policymakers is to bring together evidence from a wide range of programmes, pilots, and stakeholders and translate it into national policy that meets the needs of and protects children and young people.

Specific policy challenges include how to break the tension between dealing with current crisis on one hand and prevention and early intervention on the other. How do we measure the policy impact of prevention and early intervention? How do we show that the actions we are taking are leading to effective results?

Deaglán Ó Briain spoke about the complexities of diverting young people from the criminal justice system. Some young people in Ireland – more than 1,000 – have complex cases and contact with multiple support agencies. While keeping children out of the judicial system has been shown to work well, there is a need to better understand opportunities to intervene earlier to protect children at risk. It is difficult to measure effect, find evidence, and estimate costs.

### Research responders

The research responders were Dr Seán Redmond, School of Law, University of Limerick; Professor Alice Coffey, Professor of Nursing, University of Limerick; Dr Margaret Brennan, Research Assistant, Public Health and Primary Care, Trinity College Dublin; and Professor Noel McCarthy, Professor of Population Health Medicine, Public Health and Primary Care, Trinity College Dublin.

### Key research messages

Dr Redmond spoke about his research on the social networks of young people who are involved in drug markets, including some involved in the sale of drugs. He has identified issues such as vulnerability, coercive control, and environmental norms that value and respect criminal behaviour, with few routes to escape.

He shared that some communities may oppose intervention and feel that the State may not always be trusted. Children's families may be involved themselves in the drug market. Most off-the-peg prevention programmes cannot deal with the complexities that these children and young people face. Research is needed to inform bespoke, locally informed programmes

and interventions, adapted to the complexities.

Professor Coffey spoke about how implementation research seeks the best ways to put interventions into practice. This needs engagement with policymakers, researchers, and people affected by the policy. Implementation researchers can measure how well an intervention has been implemented and examine process, outcomes, related behaviours, and what works.

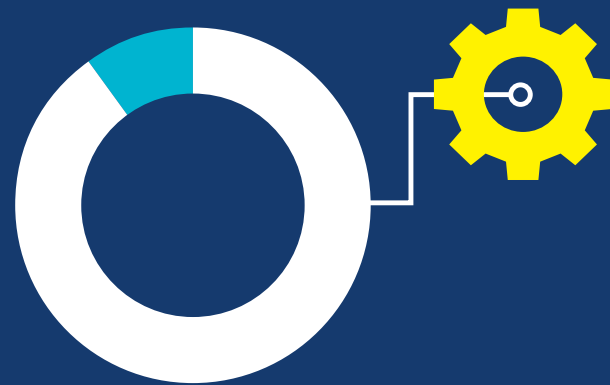
Dr Brennan and Professor McCarthy spoke about their analysis of drug and alcohol data from Growing Up in Ireland (GUI),<sup>5</sup> a national longitudinal study of children and young people. GUI is a good example of an excellent source of data that can provide valuable insights into risk and protective factors associated with young people's substance use. They also spoke about other relevant research findings, including the long-term negative influence of poverty and growing up during waves of drug use in communities.

### Q&A highlights

- It is difficult and expensive to gather longitudinal evidence about whether policy-related prevention and early intervention programmes work.
- There seems to be an endless need for evidence in this area, yet we still need to act; we cannot use a lack of evidence as a reason not to progress.
- Evidence indicates that today more children and young people in contact with support services are now in school compared with previously, which is positive.
- Early years education may offer an opportunity to meet the needs of children at risk. School cultures can provide nurturing environments for children and young people, but schools are working in silos.
- Long-term thinking and co-design are critical.
- Frontline workers and other key stakeholders in communities need to be involved in setting the research questions, data collection, project development, policy implementation, and evaluation of policies.

Reflecting on the session, chair Mary Doyle said:

**Much of the discussion focused on the perennial issues of design and funding. At its core, the questions revolve around the best way to make investments from scarce resources. The importance of taking a long-term perspective was stressed, and organisations need to work together more effectively. Managing stakeholder and community engagement was also identified as a key issue. There is a need for engagement at the earliest possible opportunity, at the research concept and design stage, rather than as an add-on in later stages of the process.**



**Some 90% of respondents found the format of the brokerage session worked.**



**The presentations were short and concise, with the speakers managing to effectively condense large quantities of information into a few minutes without losing any nuance.**



**I thought the event was excellent – thoughtfully organised and the attention to detail was phenomenal.**



**The input from the four areas gave a succinct presentation or example of what is happening in their area, how it was working (or otherwise), and putting forward the outcomes in some instances.**

### Theme 3: An engaged research approach to informing policy for young people at risk

The chair of the discussion was Dr Orlaigh Quinn, former Secretary General, DETE.

#### Policy challengers

The policy challengers were Jim Walsh, Principal Officer, Drugs Policy and Social Inclusion Unit, DoH; and Gurchand Singh, Principal Officer, Research and Data Analytics, Department of Justice.

#### Key policy messages

Jim Walsh set out some stark statistics for Ireland – one in five young people (aged 15–24 years) use drugs at some point, mostly cannabis or cocaine, and that Ireland had 600 new cases of young people under 18 years requiring treatment for drug use in 2022. Drug possession currently incurs criminal sanctions, which can create stigma and longer-term problems for young people. The Citizens’ Assembly on Drugs Use and the National Drugs Strategy support an alternative health-led approach, but it is not as simple as changing the law.

A major question for policymakers is how to put in place mechanisms to divert young people in a positive way towards health supports and harm reduction.

Policy challenger Gurchand Singh spoke about the importance of timely data and research that grasps the ever-evolving complexity of a terrain. His key approach includes understanding what success looks like and for whom. What do we want to achieve and what mechanisms and resources can get us there? Having this understanding will help us to construct evidence and research to support the shaping of policy and operational activity, to identify success metrics to monitor, and to construct evaluations. The big question is how to do this in what often is a fast-evolving policy context.

An important issue for policymakers is the timeliness needed for response; sometimes policymakers need rapid research-informed answers that academic researchers may not be able to provide. There is a need for better access to insights from existing datasets, if possible.

#### Research responders

The research responders were Dr Ian Marder, Assistant Professor in Criminology, Maynooth University; and Professor Jo-Hanna Ivers, Associate Professor in Addiction, Public Health and Primary Care, Trinity College Dublin.

#### Key research messages

Dr Marder said that research on youth justice could help to inform policy around drugs and young people. This research shows that policy-led diversion is more effective than prosecution at reducing crime. It suggests a need to disincentivise prosecuting children and to identify critical moments for support, such as hospital attendance.

He also recommended that academic researchers be involved early in the policy development process, as they may be able to facilitate the involvement of vulnerable groups and service users, which will help researchers and policymakers to better understand challenges and inform solutions. Researchers in Ireland may also be able to answer specific questions quickly for policymakers based on existing literature or data. Building respectful relationships can enable such mutual engagement.

Professor Ivers said Ireland is moving away from a panic response and towards opportunity. This needs people to work together, to co-create, and to have a collective agenda as a model of recovery is advanced as a solution in Ireland. We also need to explore factors that support a sustainable recovery. This means ensuring that people in recovery, no matter what their situation, are supported to be part of research and inform policy. And this in turn needs financial models to support longer-term research and to have engagement and peer-led processes built into systems.

The legal barriers that people with lived experience may face in taking part in research may also need to be overcome.

#### Q&A highlights

- People from deprived communities need to be in the room and to have empowered voices.
- We need to talk about people who are victims of crime due to drug use, and be aware of the rise of populism.
- When we strongly link evidence and policy, it is good for democracy.
- It is important to understand the time frame and role of academics. They cannot answer everything, and sometimes their role can be to facilitate engagement or to signpost to others.
- Some researchers want to enforce change in communities rather than working with them.
- We need easier access to data and linked datasets, as it can be cumbersome and time-consuming, for example, the Central Statistics Office (CSO) and GDPR.
- Funding, access to data, and call timelines can limit research being used for policy. There is a need to better resource PhDs and postdoctorates (short-term contracts are particularly a problem) and to reimagine university research and innovation infrastructure.
- In Ireland, we get stuck in implementing policies. We need to overcome this and monitor, formatively, interventions, measure impact, and see if it is working, or if it is causing unintended harm.

Reflecting on the session, chair Dr Quinn said:

Everybody in the room spoke. We had valuable insights on early inclusion, how data access can be improved, the need to hear from victims, and the importance of building and resourcing a sustainable base in academia to support policy with research and knowledge, which is healthy in a democracy.

### Common emerging themes

Several topics, issues, and solutions emerged from the three brokerage sessions between policymakers and researchers, including:

- Civil service and academic researchers can work well together to inform policy. Ireland needs to provide knowledge-exchange infrastructure and opportunities for researchers and civil servants to build trusted relationships and understanding.
- Stakeholders need to be involved and engaged from the earliest stages of policy development and through implementation. This includes people who use substances, communities, frontline workers, researchers, student leaders, and victims of crime as well as policymakers. To do this, legal and data protection issues may need to be overcome.
- Substance use among young people is complex and off-the-peg solutions will not likely work. We need to understand and work with the complexity and to focus on diversion rather than stigma.
- Access to timely data is crucial for evidence. In Ireland, we already have valuable data in, for example, health datasets and youth justice research. However, we need to make data more accessible and useful (e.g. linked) to better inform public policy decision-making.
- We need to evaluate public policy implementation and ensure that we revise and amend policies based on the evidence of what is and is not working.
- Research-funding cycles and access to programmatic funding need to be made available. University research infrastructure needs to be reimagined to deliver on the ambitions of research policy outlined in Impact 2030.
- As we move away from a panic response and towards one of opportunity, away from criminal sanctions and towards a more health-led approach, we need to learn from our successes but not get stuck in the past. Instead we need strategies for the future.

## 3 Recommendations arising from brokerage event

Several themes emerged from the presentations and discussions at the brokerage event. The following are key recommendations to better support evidence for public policy and implementation for young people and substance use in Ireland.

### Build a trusted network

Communication between researchers and policymakers needs to be trusted and timely. Ireland must develop and resource a network where academic researchers, policymakers, communities, and other stakeholders can develop and nurture connections.

### Develop short, medium, and long-term strategies for tackling substance use among young people

Substance use among young people is a pervasive issue that impacts generations of people and communities in Ireland. Evidence-based policies and strategies in Ireland need to tackle immediate concerns, such as the high level of stimulant use and risky alcohol consumption. Policies also need to prevent future harm. Ireland needs to develop and resource more systems to provide early warnings about trends and emerging issues.

### Enable lived experience to inform evidence

Lived experience is at the heart of engaged research. Ireland must support and resource workable channels for stakeholders with lived experience to engage meaningfully with researchers and policymakers. Stakeholders include people living with addiction and members of affected communities. People contributing to the generation of evidence must be respected and remunerated.

### Improve access to datasets

Researchers and policymakers need access to high-quality data to develop insights and evidence. Improving access to and linkage of existing datasets would enable high-quality research. Effective secondary analysis will need dedicated researchers and data scientists who have the skills to ask the right questions from the data and who can add value to the knowledge already in these resources.

### Create long-term dedicated funding at institutional level

Academic projects that seek to generate evidence about young people and substance use can suffer from short time-frames and short term involvement of researchers, who then leave with their expertise. Instead, long-term dedicated funding and expertise embedded in academic institutions will enable the deepening of engagement and research on the causes, impact, and prevention of substance use among young people.

### **Increase mobility for training between civil service and higher education sector**

Internships and placements for PhD-level and postdoctoral researchers should be created and resourced to spend time with policymakers and in the civil service. The researchers can therefore learn about how evidence can inform and enrich policy for, and impact on, protecting young people from the harm of substance use.



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Appendix 1: List of registered attendees at the event

First name	Surname	Affiliation
A. Jamie	Saris	Maynooth University
Aiden	Carthy	Technological University Dublin
Alessandra	Bo	EMCDDA
Alice	Coffey	University of Limerick
Amber	O’Toole	Department of Justice
Andrea	Bruton	Irish Universities Association
Andrea	Deverell	University of Limerick
Anna	Sacio-Szymańska	4CF The Futures Literacy Company
Anna	Visser	Department of the Taoiseach
Anne	Doyle	Health Research Board
Anne Marie	Carew	Health Research Board
Aoife	Doyle	Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform
Barbara	Dooley	University College Dublin
Barry	Vaughan	Department of the Taoiseach
Ben	Ryan	Department of Justice
Bobby	Smyth	Health Service Executive
Brian	Galvin	Health Research Board
Bridget	Wilson	Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth
Briege	Casey	Dublin City University
Carmel	Hannan	University of Limerick
Caroline	Jordan	Tusla
Cathal	O’Regan	Department of the Taoiseach
Catherine	Gill	Health Research Board
Cathy	Kelleher	Health Research Board
Celeste	O’Callaghan	Department of Education



First name	Surname	Affiliation
Chloe	Kearns	Department of Health
Ciara	Leonard	University College Dublin
Ciara	Pidgeon	Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth
Clíona	Ní Cheallaigh	Trinity College Dublin
Colette	Murphy	Union of Students in Ireland
David	Finn	University of Galway
David	Kehoe	Department of Justice
Deaglán	Ó Briain	Department of Justice
Deirdre	Mongan	Health Research Board
Dervla	Kelly	University of Limerick
Brian	Melaugh	Maynooth University
Eamon	Keenan	Heath Service Executive
Eileen	Corroon Sweeney	Health Service Executive/Trinity College Dublin
Eimear	Healy	Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform
Emmett	Tuite	Technological University Dublin
Evelyn	Suttle	Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth
Fergal	Lynch	University of Galway
Fiona	Collins	Dublin City University
Fiona	Kennedy	Trinity College Dublin
Gavin	Murphy	Department of Education
Gráinne	Deasy-Dunne	Department of the Taoiseach
Gurchand	Singh	Department of Justice
Ian	Marder	Maynooth University
Jane	Duffy	Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform
Jim	Miley	Irish Universities Association
Jim	Walsh	Department of Health
Jo-Hanna	Ivers	Trinity College Dublin
Karen	O'Connor	Department of Health
Kate	Morris	Irish Universities Association

First name	Surname	Affiliation
Katy	Ellis	Department of Education
Laura	O'Reilly	Ballyfermot STAR
Leonora	Harty	Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science
Lisa	Fay	Department of Justice
Lisa	Keating	Irish Universities Association
Lisa	Higgins	Science Foundation Ireland
Liz	Dornan	Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth
Louise	Durand	Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland
Lucy	Dillon	Health Research Board
Mairéad	O'Driscoll	Health Research Board
Margaret	Brennan	Trinity College Dublin
Marie	Hyland	Trinity College Dublin
Marie	Lawless	Ballymun Local Drugs and Alcohol Task Force
Martin	Galvin	University College Cork
Martina	Shaughnessy	Department of the Taoiseach
Mary	Doyle	Royal Irish Academy
Mary	McCarthy	Department of Health
Mary Jane	Trimble	Department of Health
Matthew	Doyle	Department of Health
Michael	Byrne	University College Cork
Nada	Milisavljević	European Commission Directorate-General Migration and Home Affairs
Nessa	McKevitt	Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth
Nico	Denti	Department of Justice
Noel	McCarthy	Trinity College Dublin
Norelee	Kennedy	University of Limerick
Olivia	Farrell	Department of Justice
Orlaigh	Quinn	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment
Patrick	McCarthy	Department of Education
Patrick	O'Donnell	University of Limerick

First name	Surname	Affiliation
Rebekah	Brennan	Cork Drug and Alcohol Task Force
Richie	Stafford	Department of Health
Rowena	Dwyer	Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform
Sally	Smith	Trinity College Dublin
Sara	Burke	Trinity College Dublin
Sarah	Morton	University College Dublin
Sé	McCormack	An Garda Síochána
Seán	Millar	University College Cork
Seán	Redmond	University of Limerick
Sharon	Lambert	University College Cork
Siobhán	McArdle	Department of Health
Styliani (Stella)	Vlachou	Dublin City University
Susan	Calnan	University College Cork
Suzanne	Gunn	Department of Justice
Suzi	Lyons	Health Research Board
Tadhg	Fallon	Department of Health
Teodora	Groshkova	EMCDDA
Tomás	Ó Ruairc	Department of Education
Tony	Duffin	Ana Liffey Drug Project
Tony	O'Donovan	Department of Justice
Zubair	Kabir	University College Cork



For more information,  
contact: [\*\*bgalvin@hrb.ie\*\*](mailto:bgalvin@hrb.ie)

Health Research Board  
Grattan House  
67-72 Lower Mount Street  
Dublin 2  
D02 H638  
Ireland

**t** 353 1 234 5000  
**f** 353 1 661 2335  
**e** [hrb@hrb.ie](mailto:hrb@hrb.ie)  
**w** [www.hrb.ie](http://www.hrb.ie)