



## Working for Mental Health

Providing opportunities for employment for people recovering from mental ill health

Penthouse Suite  
Europa Hotel, Belfast  
9 November 2011  
2.00 - 4.30pm

This Seminar is sponsored by The Tughan Trust

The Tughan Trust was established in memory of a founder of AMH Action Mental Health, Fredrick Charles Tughan, CBE. Mr Tughan was a remarkable man, a businessman, a civic representative and an individual who used his entrepreneurial skills to develop services for people with mental ill health. In the early 1960's, Fred Tughan learned of an organisation in Bristol which provided therapy, care and training to people with mental ill health. He took this idea, refined it, enhanced it, and founded the Industrial Therapy Organisation (ITO), now Action Mental Health. Mr Tughan was the Life President until his death in January 1999.

For more information and contact details:

[www.amh.org.uk](http://www.amh.org.uk)

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action mental health

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## Background

The landscape of employment prospects for people recovering from mental illness could be transformed through real engagement by the public sector and a commitment to tackling the stigma.

Action Mental Health launched their manifesto for the 2011 Assembly elections on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> of February in the Long Gallery, Stormont.

The document called for the public sector, including Government Departments, to lead by example in promoting positive mental health at every opportunity. They need to lead the charge in combating stigma, putting in place Mental Health awareness programmes and policies in the workplace and offering work placements to people with mental health needs.

## Working for Mental Health

Since 1963, Action Mental Health has focused on the link between work and good mental health and believes that finding you have “something to give” as well as seeking help, is central to building self esteem and this is at the heart of recovery. AMH Chief Executive David Babington has said that whilst the private sector has engaged well in recent times, the public sector needs to open itself up in the same manner.

***“Work is not only central to most people’s lives; it has also been shown to have a positive effect on mental health. AMH deliver training programmes and support work based training and employment placements with a view to helping our clients re-enter the workforce, helping more than 1,700 people each year. We have developed very positive links with many businesses in the private sector, organisations in the voluntary sector and several Trusts and Councils but as the largest employer in Northern Ireland, the public sector needs to engage further than it has to date. With the cooperation of the public sector, these schemes could be extended at little cost, with huge benefit both to the people involved and to the wider economy.”***

## Our Host

Letitia Fitzpatrick has been a journalist and presenter for 26 years - with UTV, the BBC and the Irish News, covering the Troubles from 1983 through the peace process to the present day. She also works as a motivational speaker, talking about:

- famous and inspirational people
- coping with stress in a pressurized profession
- juggling work and motherhood
- recovering from depression
- being a carer for a husband with terminal cancer
- coping with bereavement
- Changing career and direction

## Visiting Guest Speaker

Lynne Miller is a Vocational Services Manager within the NHS. Lynne studied Rehabilitation Counselling at Sydney University and worked as a rehabilitation counsellor for a number of years in Australia. On her return to the UK Lynne has specialised in assisting people with mental health problems to move back into employment. Her current role has involved integrating a mental health vocational rehabilitation model into traditional care pathways within a large mental health and addictions trust (Central and NW London NHS Foundation Trust), including the development of an exemplary employer programme within the Trust.

## Special Guest Speaker

Dr Stephen Farry is the Minister for Employment and Learning. A member of the Alliance Party, he is an MLA in North Down.

## Guest Speaker

Alison Kerr graduated from QUB in 1985 with a BSc Hons Degree in Sociology and Social Administration and a Postgraduate Diploma in Business Admin QUB in 1986. In 1990 she obtained a Diploma in Personnel Management and she is currently a Member of the CIPD. Her early working career was spent working within the Private Sector. In 1990 she joined the Public Sector commencing employment in the Personnel Department of the EHSSB. She continued her career in HR within the NHS working in Belfast City Hospital Trust, Greenpark Healthcare Trust (Assist. Director of HR) and is presently working as a Senior HR Manager in the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust.



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14.00 **Registration & refreshments**

14.10 **Welcome address**  
Letitia Fitzpatrick

14.15 **A Monologue**  
Performed by Ann Donnelly

14.25 **Testimonial**  
Josephine Devlin

14.30 **Working for Mental Health**  
David Babington, Chief Executive, AMH

14.35 **Visiting Guest Speaker**  
Lynne Miller, Vocational Services Manager, Central & NW London NHS Foundation Trust  
*“Increasing access to paid employment opportunities for service users in a large Mental Health and Addictions Trust”.*

14.55 **Special Guest Speaker**  
Dr Stephen Farry, Minister for Employment & Learning

15.05 **Belfast Health & Social Care Trust**  
Alison Kerr, Senior HR Manager, Governance, Improving Working Lives & Employment Equality  
*“Disability Action”*

15.25 **Testimonial**  
Lynda Duke

15.30 **Discussion Panel & Question-Time**  
Chaired by Letitia Fitzpatrick  
Panel: John McGeown, Co-Director of Mental Health, Belfast Health & Social Care Trust; Dairmuir McKeown, McKeown’s Solicitors Ltd Newry; Selwyn Johnston, AMH Service Manager; Brian Annesley; Jason Nicholson, East Belfast Mission (Stepping Stone Project); John Kerr, AMH Employment Officer

16.00 **Testimonial**  
Dermot Donnelly

16.05 **Closing Remarks**  
Colin Loughran, AMH Service Manager

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