

NICON Primary Care Network Lead

Inviting Expressions of Interest

Context	<p>In December 2024, Minister of Health Mike Nesbitt published his Three Year Plan for Health and Social Care Northern Ireland (HSCNI), updated by a Reset Plan in July 2025, setting out a clear aspiration to support moving care closer to home, using technology and investing in a much greater preventative approach. In this context there are significant opportunities for primary care stakeholders to play a key role in the delivery of these key strategic shifts.</p> <p>Working closely with the NI Confederation for Health and Social Care (NICON) leaders, SPPG and local primary care stakeholders, and with the support of the NHS Confederation's Primary Care Network, we have agreed that there is an opportunity to create a Northern Ireland Primary Care Network, within the NICON arrangements, to provide a collaborative space to support the development of ambitious and strategic approaches, build consensus, share learning, and provide a strong voice for primary care within NICON and HSC system conversations.</p> <p>Our vision is for primary care in Northern Ireland to be valued, supported, well-resourced and an empowered part of system arrangements to drive innovation, improve population health and reduce health inequalities, supporting the three shifts to prevention, community care, and utilizing digital technologies.</p> <p>The objectives of the establishment of the NI Primary Care Network are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To create a strong representative voice for primary care in the public domain and as a key part of NICON and system conversations • Support innovation and transformation and play a key role in influencing future policy and implementation arrangements • To support consensus building and communication around key primary care issues • To support shared learning, across Northern Ireland and across the wider NHS Confederation Primary Care Network
Role description	<p>The Primary Care Network Lead will be a primary care clinician, who will play a critical role in supporting the establishment and development of a thriving primary care network offering, which provides leadership and develops influential perspectives on behalf of primary care.</p> <p>The lead will be a strategic thinker. They will have an in depth understanding of primary care arrangements and the role of other</p>

	<p>partners in the system. They will be a highly effective communicator, and their credibility will enable them to build excellent relationships to influence effectively with local and national stakeholders. They will be able to promote collective working, and role model the behaviours of system working, ensuring that the network adopts an inclusive approach set out in the NHS Confederation's values.</p>
	<p>Responsibilities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work closely with the Director of NICON to establish effective protocols and ways of working with the Primary Care Oversight Committee, NI Primary Care Network members, the NHS Confederation Primary Care Network and the variety of NICON groupings, importantly adopting a collaborative and inclusive approach. 2. Design and deliver an effective forward work plan for the NI Primary Care Network in liaison with the Oversight Committee and wider stakeholders. 3. Work with the NICON team to develop a communications plan to maximise the profile of the Network, including by acting as a compelling spokesperson on behalf of members, by speaking at events, undertaking media interviews, and contributing to a range of publications in conjunction with the NICON team. 4. Represent the NI Primary Care Network at external meetings and events, influencing decision-making at government level through championing innovative practice, identifying challenges and opportunities for improvements 5. Keep abreast of local and national policy on primary care and the wider health and social care agenda 6. Provide clinical advice to NICON groupings as required 7. Evaluate the work of the Network at the end of its first and second year and work with the NICON Director to secure resourcing, including commercial income, to ensure the longer-term sustainability of the Network beyond the initial two-year establishment phase.
Time commitment	<p>It is envisaged that the role will require two days per week which can be worked flexibly, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting Network arrangements (Committee and Member meetings, drafting papers, canvassing member views, liaising with key stakeholders) • Support external engagement activities through attendance at national stakeholder meetings, speaking at conferences and working with the NICON team to deliver effective events • Maintain effective accountability and support arrangements with the NICON Director and NICON team
Tenure	2 years (with potential for extension)

Person specification	<p>Essential criteria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. Northern Ireland primary care clinician, with demonstrable knowledge of the policy development process and primary care organisational landscape in Northern Ireland II. Track record of collaborative working with partner organisations to build coalitions and achieve shared goals. III. Proven experience of active involvement in strategic forums at national, regional or system level IV. Excellent communication and interpersonal skills, including being personally credible and influential with senior stakeholders. V. Highly developed verbal and written communication skills which include an ability to convey clinical priorities and complex messages to colleagues, various stakeholders, media and interest groups VI. Innovative and solution-focused about the role of primary care in its widest sense, whilst cognisant of the challenges. VII. Understanding of local and internationally emerging policies in relation to primary care and the wider health and social care agenda and the current social and political environment. <p>Desirable criteria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. Track record of acting as a spokesperson, articulating key messages in the public domain II. Experience or knowledge of working with wider primary care providers III. Experience of working with commercial sector partners and income generation activities
Other	NICON has secured a fee of £700 per day for this role, paid on a monthly or bi-monthly basis on receipt of an invoice. Out-of-pocket expenses will be reimbursed in line with NHS Confederation policies.
Appointment process	<p>Applicants should submit a 2-page expression of interest summarising how they meet the person specification.</p> <p>This should be accompanied by a 5-minute video (recorded on Teams or phone) explaining “What you see as the future role for primary care in Northern Ireland and your vision for how the Network can help”.</p> <p>These should both be emailed to Vicky.Lisk@niconfedhss.org with subject ‘PCN Lead expression of interest’ by 4pm on Thursday 14th August.</p> <p>To conclude the process an informal discussion will be held with the preferred candidate.</p> <p>Timeline Expressions of Interest: By Thursday 14th August Interviews: Week beginning 25th August</p>

	<p>Appointment anticipated early September</p> <p>Formal announcement: At NICON annual conference, 15th-16th October</p>
Further information	<p>Find out more about the Northern Ireland Confederation for Health and Social Care (NICON) here.</p> <p>Find out more about the NHS Confederation's Primary Care Network here.</p> <p>If prospective applicants wish to have more detailed conversations, please contact:</p> <p>Heather Moorhead, NICON Director: Heather.Moorhead@niconfedhss.org</p> <p>Rebecca Gale, NHS Confederation Primary Care Network: Rebecca.Gale@nhsconfed.org</p>

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