

## Annual Conference & Exhibition 2024 - Speaker Bios

### Jillian van Turnhout, NHI Chair:



Jillian is the Chair of Nursing Homes Ireland and a Chartered Director with corporate governance accreditation from INSEAD. She serves on several notable boards, including the Arts Council of Ireland, the Private Security Authority and Irish Girl Guides.

Recently appointed Chair of the Online Health Taskforce, her expertise in public health is further recognised through her Honorary Fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland. Jillian provides consultancy services in governance to a wide range of clients.

### Minister Mary Butler, Minister of State for Mental Health and Older People:



Minister Mary Butler is the Minister of State for Mental Health and Older People in Ireland. She has been a TD for Waterford since 2016, representing Fianna Fáil. Before her political career, she managed her family's grocery business for 17 years in Portlaw, Waterford.

In 2020, Butler became the first female TD from Waterford to be appointed Minister.

### Laura Casey, Principal Officer, Social Care Projects Dept. of Health:



Laura Casey is a Principal Officer in the Social Care Division in the Department of Health with responsibility for leading a range of policy and legislative reforms including in the areas of nursing home care, adult safeguarding and protection of liberty safeguards.

Laura has worked in the Department of Health since 2016, and previously worked in the Departments of Education, Energy and Finance in a range of roles.

## **Dr. George Jacob, KPMG:**



Dr George Jacob is a trained applied economist and senior consultant at KPMG. He primarily works on data models related to labour force participation and employment. George is also involved with economic and financial appraisals for various projects aligned with the Public Spending Code.

His Ph.D. covered economic structural modelling dealing with topics of bargaining power and labour force participation with a focus on development. With his expertise in econometrics, data driven methodologies, economic modelling, and spatial analysis, he was part of several research projects while he was at Trinity College Dublin as a Provost PhD Scholar.

## **Eileen Doyle, Knockeen Nursing Home:**



Eileen Doye brings extensive experience to her role in elder care, following a distinguished 30-year career in the hospitality industry. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Management from Trinity College Dublin and a Master of Business Studies in Travel & Tourism Management from University College Dublin. Eileen furthered her expertise in healthcare with a Higher Diploma in Applied Social Studies and a Higher Certificate in Healthcare Support Practice.

Eileen currently serves as a healthcare assistant and Advanced Healthcare Assistant Practitioner at Knockeen Nursing Home, where she is dedicated to delivering personalized care and organizing engaging activities for residents.

## **Paula O'Reilly, CEO, Irish Hospice Foundation:**



Paula has over 15 years' experience working in a variety of Irish and International private, public healthcare and charitable organisations.

In previous roles, Paula has worked in occupational therapy and mental health services. She was CEO of Cheeverstown House for 3 years before moving to Virtue – Integrated Elder Care where she held the positions of Chief Operations Officer and more recently Group CEO.

Paula holds a Bachelor of Science (Occupational Therapy) and a master's in health service management from Trinity College Dublin.

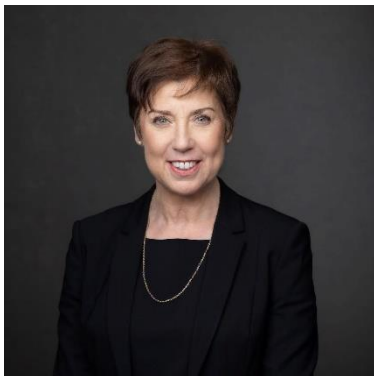
## **Bradley Nolan, Head of Innovation and Research in Further Education at DDLETB:**



Bradley Nolan is the Head of Innovation and Research in Further Education at Dublin and Dún Laoghaire Education and Training Board (DDLETB). He leads the development of the "Virtual Reality (VR) in Healthcare - Soft Skills in Eldercare" programme under the Skills to Advance initiative, aimed at enhancing caregiver professional development through VR technology.

With a robust background in strategic project management and learning and development (L&D), Bradley has previously served as Head of Strategic Projects at L&DI (formerly IITD) and Manager of the L&D Skillnet Network. His expertise includes research, programme development, and piloting innovative training solutions, particularly for L&D professionals in Ireland.

## **Martina Queally, REO, HSE Dublin & South East:**



Martina Queally has over 30 years' health service leadership experience with particular expertise in strategic change management in public services and integrated service delivery. Since 2015, as Chief Officer in HSE Community Healthcare East, she has led the planning and delivery of all community health services in the area (South Dublin and Wicklow), a range of national programmes, and a combined HSE and voluntary workforce of nearly 4000 staff.

Martina commenced her role as Regional Executive Officer in HSE Dublin and South East on January 29th 2024. HSE Dublin and South East will serve the people of Carlow, Kilkenny, South Tipperary, Waterford, Wexford, East Wicklow and parts of South Dublin.

## **Fiona Walsh, Head of Contracts & Strategy, NTPF:**



Working in the health sector throughout her career, Fiona is experienced in navigating the complexities of the healthcare industry. She is currently working as Head of Contracts & Strategy in the National Treatment Purchase Fund (NTPF).

With a background in contract negotiations and through her work as a policy specialist Fiona has contributed to several policy discussions helping to shape the future of LTRC services in Ireland.

## Áine Flynn, CEO, Decision Support Service:



Áine Flynn is a graduate of Trinity College Dublin. She is a solicitor and former senior partner in Dublin firm KOD Lyons where she practised public interest law, including mental health and capacity law. She was on the panel of legal representatives of the Mental Health Tribunal and the Mental Health (Criminal Law) Review Board from their inception in 2006. She holds an advanced diploma in Quasi-Judicial Decision-Making from the Kings Inns.

She is the current Vice Chair of the Human Rights and Equality Committee of the Law Society of Ireland. In 2023, she was named Irish Healthcare Person of the Year.

In October 2017, Áine commenced in post as the first Director of the Decision Support Service under the Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Act 2015 and she has been involved in extensive communications and stakeholder engagement to promote understanding of the Act in diverse sectors.

## Tim Hanly, General Manager, National Safeguarding Office:



Tim Hanly studied as a Social Science undergraduate at UCC and qualified as a social worker from the University of Warwick in 1991. He completed a MA at Warwick University with a dissertation on the self-organisation of people with Disabilities. Tim worked as a social worker in Glasgow between 1991 and 1995 as part of a Community Care Team. Since returning to Ireland in 1995 Tim has occupied various management positions within Child Care services in both the Northeast and Mid-West Areas.

Tim has a particular interest in the foster care and after care provision and would have played a key role in developing practice and policy within the HSE and TUSLA in these areas. Tim has recently completed an MSc in Quality & Safety in Healthcare Management from the RCSI where he completed a dissertation on advancing a strengths-based approach in adult safeguarding via adopting the Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP) initiative.

## Keynote Speaker – Deborah Somorin:



Deborah Somorin is a Qualified Chartered Accountant, serving large Irish and Global clients. Deborah is also a published author of two books, an autobiography called *Believing in Me* and a children's book called *I Believe in You*.

Deborah is a sought-after speaker and mentor, sharing her story of triumph over adversity with audiences around the world. Her engaging and heartfelt presentations inspire individuals to overcome their own obstacles, pursue their dreams, and create positive change in their lives and communities.

Full Bio: <https://www.speakersolutions.ie/browse/deborah-somorin.476.html>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/deborah-somorin-aca-989b11109/>

## Tadhg Daly – NHI CEO:



Tadhg Daly is Chief Executive of Nursing Homes Ireland (NHI), the representative organization for the private and voluntary nursing homes sector.

Tadhg was formerly CEO of the Irish Nursing Homes Organisation (INHO) and was one of the key figures that led to the establishment of Nursing Homes Ireland in January 2008.

Prior to joining INHO in 2005 Tadhg worked with the Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children in several senior management positions.

Tadhg is a passionate advocate in care of the older person, outlining that as a Society we need to celebrate the fact that people are living longer, develop a continuum of care and ambitious policy for the care of our ageing demographic.

## Anton Savage, MC:



Anton Savage is a well-known Irish broadcaster, journalist, and communications expert. He is the Managing Director of The Communications Clinic, a prominent communications training and consultancy firm in Ireland.

Savage has hosted several high-profile radio and TV programmes, including *The Anton Savage Show* on Today FM, *Savage Sunday*, and *The Sunday Business Show*. He is also a relief presenter for major shows like *The Pat Kenny Show* and *The Hard Shoulder* on Newstalk.



In addition to his media work, Anton regularly serves as an MC, chairing conferences, AGMs, and awards ceremonies for top clients such as KPMG, Vodafone, and Bank of Ireland. His book, *Spin and Win*, focuses on political communications and how Irish politicians succeed in elections