

17th March 2021

Chair and Member Appointments Extended on the National Confidential Forum

The Minister for Mental Health today announced the extensions to the appointments of the Head, Ms Jayne Laidlaw and two members, Dr Aileen Blower and Professor Kate Davidson on the National Confidential Forum.

HEAD

Ms Jayne Laidlaw has 30 years' experience in the field of trauma and recovery, child protection and counselling. She has been in Strategic Leadership positions for 15 years, and is accomplished in transformational change management and driving efficiencies. Jayne is a Member of the Chartered Management Institute and holds qualifications in Community Development, Leadership, Counselling and Psychotherapy.

MEMBERS

Dr Aileen Blower is a child and adolescent psychiatrist. She has practised for over 30 years in a variety of community and hospital settings. Aileen has been committed to ensuring that all children can access safe, effective mental health care. She has worked with children in many residential care settings, and led initial development of secure inpatient services in Scotland.

Prof Kate Davidson is Honorary Professor of Clinical Psychology at the University of Glasgow. She worked as a consultant Clinical Psychologist in adult mental health in the NHS in Scotland prior to retiring in 2014. She has made professional contributions to improving clinical services and standards within the NHS and internationally. Kate's clinical and research work has focused on developing effective therapies for people who harm themselves or who harm others, many of whom had experienced deprivation, and emotional and physical abuse, in childhood and adolescence.

EXTENSIONS

The extensions will be for six months, from 1 April 2021 to 30 September 2021.

The extensions are regulated by the Ethical Standards Commissioner.

REMUNERATION

The reappointments are part-time.

The Head of the Form attracts a remuneration of £368.87 per day, for a time commitment of not more than 26 days during the period of the extension.

The member positions attract a remuneration of £262.35 per day, for a time commitment of not more than 26 days during the period of the extension.

OTHER MINISTERIAL APPOINTMENTS

Dr Blower is a Medical Member within the Mental Health Tribunal for Scotland, which attracts a remuneration of £422 per day for a time commitment of one day per month.

Ms Laidlaw and Prof Davidson do not hold any other Ministerial appointments.

POLITICAL ACTIVITY

All appointments are made on merit and political activity plays no part in the selection process. However, in accordance with the original Nolan recommendations, there is a requirement for appointees' political activity within the last five years (if there is any to be declared) to be made public.

Ms Laidlaw, Dr Blower and Prof Davidson have had no political activity within the last five years.

BACKGROUND

The National Confidential Forum was created in 2014 as a committee of the Mental Welfare Commission, under the Victims and Witnesses (Scotland) Act 2014.

It is part of the Scottish Government's overall package of support for survivors offering care experienced people the opportunity to anonymously share their experiences, good or bad, of being in care in Scotland and uses this testimony, anonymously, to create a record that acknowledges people's experience.