



# Speak up for babies

## Giving our most vulnerable the best start

### Conference Agenda

Thursday 3 October 09.30 – 13.30

Time	Session	Facilitator
09:30	Welcome and purpose	Claire Dorris , Senior Research Manager, NCB
09.35	Welcome from the Minister of Health	Health Minister Mike Nesbitt (live)
09.45	Keynote session 1 Speaking up for Babies: Why and How?	Dr Karen Bateson , Joint CEO/Executive Director of Oxford Parent Infant Project <a href="#">OxPip</a>
10.35	The NI policy context: prioritising infants, protecting the most vulnerable	Paul Brush , Director of Early Years, Children & Youth, Dept. of Education Heather Reid , Director of Nursing, Midwifery & Allied Health Professionals, Public Health Agency Tracey Ripley - McElvogue , Chair, Stronger From the Start Alliance

11.10	Comfort break (15 minutes)	
11.25	Connecting Through Song Wellbeing and music therapy approaches to supporting the parent - infant relationship	<b>Karen Diamond</b> , Director of Professional Affairs, British Association of Music Therapists
11.50	Keynote session 2 The Continuing Invisibility of Infant Mental Health: “What the eye doesn’t see, the heart doesn’t grieve over”	<b>Graham Shulman</b> , Clinical Lead for NHS Lanarkshire Infant Mental Health Service, and Head of Child Psychotherapy, CAMHS
12.40	Update on the Refreshed IMH Framework Priorities & next steps	<b>Maurice Meehan</b> , Head of Health and Social Wellbeing Improvement (Northern), Public Health Agency
13.10	Reflections on the day & call to action	<b>Grainne McHugh</b> , See Hear Act Regional Champion, Women’s Aid Federation NI, representing Stronger from the Start Alliance
13.20	Thank you and close	<b>Claire Dorris</b> , Senior Research Manager, NCB



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### Speaker Biographies



#### Dr Karen Bateson

Joint CEO/Executive Director of Oxford Parent Infant Project (OXPIP)

Dr Karen Bateson is a Consultant Clinical Child Psychologist, service development consultant, author and lecturer. Karen worked clinically in the NHS for over 20 years and then at the NSPCC and [Parent-Infant Foundation](#) in development, strategy and national scale-up roles. She is now Joint CEO of the UK's longest standing specialist parent-infant relationship (PAIRs) team - [Oxford Parent-Infant Project \(OXPIP\)](#).

She is co-author of *Attachment Theory The Basics* (Routledge, 2023) and of many published articles about fathers, infant mental health and PAIRs service development. Karen can be found on Twitter/X and Bluesky @karenjbateson and on LinkedIn.



## Graham Shulman

Lead for NHS Lanarkshire Infant Mental Health Service, and joint Head of Child Psychotherapy in CAMHS NHS Lanarkshire

Graham Shulman is a Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychotherapist, Lead for [NHS Lanarkshire Infant Mental Health Service](#), and joint Head of Child Psychotherapy in [CAMHS NHS Lanarkshire](#). He was previously Organizing Tutor for the Psychoanalytic Observational Studies course and Senior Tutor for the Child Psychotherapy Clinical Training in Scotland, and is currently an External Tutor for the latter.

He has also previously worked in a joint NHS/NSPCC Court Assessment Team. He has been involved in the teaching and delivery of an introductory multi-agency and multi-disciplinary professional development course in Infant Mental Health in Lanarkshire for over 15 years, has run Infant Observation Skills training to social work supervisors of contact involving infants, and consulted to and delivered infant observation training to a specialist social work Parenting Assessment Team for infants taken into care at birth. He is joint editor and contributor to *The Emotional Experience of Adoption: A Psychoanalytic Perspective* (Routledge, 2008) and *The Non-Linear Mind: Psychoanalysis of Complexity in Psychic Life* (Karnac, 2016). He is a past Editor of the *Journal of Child Psychotherapy* and is currently an Assistant Editor of the *Infant Observation Journal*. He has published articles and chapters on clinical work, infant observation, and links between psychoanalysis, literature, and chaos theory, including a chapter in the recent interdisciplinary book *Psychoanalysis and Other Matters: Where are we now?* published by Routledge.



## Karen Diamond

Director of Professional Affairs,  
British Association for Music Therapy  
(BAMT)

Karen Diamond is a Music Therapist based in Northern Ireland with over thirty years' experience who worked for a regional music therapy charity as Clinical Services Director before establishing her own music therapy consultancy practice. In 2023 she took up the role of Director of Professional Affairs with the [British Association for Music Therapy \(BAMT\)](#) the professional body for Music Therapists in the UK.

Karen has worked with children and adults across a wide range of care pathways specialising in recent years in learning disability, long-term conditions and early years. Karen is passionate about encouraging people to sing for their own mental health benefit and for speech and language development.

Part of her work in early years involves co production with Sure Start projects in Belfast which won the 2023 BAMT award for delivering innovative ways of providing effective music therapy and the overall winner of the UK Advancing Healthcare Awards.