

Diversity & Inclusion in NI Pharmacy - Creating the right Culture  
2021 Webinar Series

**Dealing with disabilities in pharmacy: Are we doing enough?**

Tuesday 23 November 2021 @7 - 8.30pm via Zoom



**Speaker Biographies**



*Harpreet Chana, Former National Level Pharmacist, now Leadership & Wellbeing Coach*

Harpreet Chana has been a qualified pharmacist for over 15 years and has worked in the NHS, retail pharmacy, primary care and national policy. She is also a Certified Professional Coach (CPC) and the Founder/Managing Director of The Mental Wealth Academy. Harpreet uses her own experience of overcoming ill mental health in a senior national role to now help strengthen the mental health of the working population through building self-leadership and self-regulation skills.



*Rachael Power, AMH Works Manager, Action Mental Health*

Rachael began her career as a teacher but then moved into education roles within the Charity Voluntary sector. She has gained a wealth of experience from working across many different areas of the sector including, homelessness, community development, good relations and social housing. Outside of work Rachael is an advocate for Mental Health and hosts a podcast called "And How Did That Make You Feel" where she interviews guests about their experiences in therapy and counselling to try and normalise talking openly about mental health. Rachael Power has recently been appointed as AMH Works Manager at Action Mental Health.



***Anita Cawley FRPharmS, Chief Governance Officer and Co-founder at Aptus Clinical Ltd & Trustee - Pharmacist Support and Warrington Disability Partnership***

Anita was born with Cerebral Palsy and spent her early education, at Chesnut Lodge school for physically disabled children in Widnes. By senior school she had transferred to mainstream education and went on to qualify as a pharmacist. She has spent most of her professional life in the pharmaceutical industry with some practical experience in hospital and community pharmacy and has 25 years' clinical research experience.

Anita has first-hand experience of the difficulties of navigating healthcare and employment issues face by individuals with disabilities and is an advocate for change. Five years ago, she and two former colleagues founded Aptus Clinical, a niche clinical research organisation that specialises in supporting biotech companies to develop valued medicines. Anita is also Vice-Chair of the pharmacy profession's charity Pharmacist Support and a Trustee of the Warrington Disability Partnership.



***Louise McGregor, Advice and Compliance Officer, Equality Commission NI***

Louise McGregor is an Advice and Compliance Officer with the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland, an Independent Public Body established under the Northern Ireland Act 1998.

Louise's role involves advising employers and service providers of their responsibilities under each of the anti-discrimination laws and assisting them to adopt good practice guidelines to promote equality of opportunity in employment and in access to goods, facilities and services, across all of the equality grounds.

Prior to joining the Equality Commission NI and following a degree in French Language and Literature at Queen's University Belfast, Louise worked in the Human Resources Department of a leading clothing manufacturer, where, among other things, she implemented the employer duties under the Fair Employment legislation.

Louise is a Member of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development.



***Karen Smith MIEP, Head of Contracted Services, Disability Action NI***

Karen has worked in disability and employment for over 30 years in the public, private and community sector UK-wide and has been with Disability Action since 2010. Karen is currently Head of Services and responsible for leading the charity's services NI-wide across employment, training, transport, driving and digital inclusion. She is passionate about service development and building strong relationships with employers of all sizes in NI, to eradicate the employment gap for disabled people in NI. Karen is a member of the Institute of Employability Professionals.



*Rhoda Walker, Chair, Northern Ireland Rare Disease Partnership*

Rhoda started volunteering with the Northern Ireland Rare Disease Partnership (NIRDP) five years ago, after several members of her family were diagnosed with Ehlers Danlos Syndrome. So little support was provided to them following diagnosis and as such, their journey to be more knowledgeable about the condition and to find coping strategies was quite a frustrating one. Her passion for the Partnership's vision that 'no one is disadvantaged because of the rarity of their condition' stems from seeing first-hand the day-to-day difficulties that her family faced.

There are many rare conditions but the struggles faced by those in the community are collectively common. The NIRDP advocates, connects, educates and innovates on behalf of anyone with a rare condition, ensuring that the patient voice is involved in every aspect of co-production, design and delivery and working to ensure parity of service for everyone in the community.

Rhoda has over twenty-five years' experience in community development, working in local government and the voluntary sector and more recently as a freelance community development consultant.