



Stronger From The Start Infant Mental Health Alliance

November 2021 Update

Who are We?

- The *Stronger from the Start Alliance* is a collaboration between members of the Association for Infant Mental Health NI (AIMH NI) and colleagues from across the community & voluntary sector in Northern Ireland to call for explicit commitments from government on promoting and improving infant mental health.
- We're committed to collaborate across statutory, community & voluntary sectors in the best interests of infants and families.
- We're currently focused on raising political awareness of infant mental health, monitoring implementation of commitment made within the [NI Mental Health Strategy 2020-2030](#) and lobbying for additional commitments from NI government departments.
- Early years investment is the most evidenced and cost-effective way of transforming child and family outcomes. By working to #includeinfants in policy, strategy and service delivery we can deliver generational change.

Our Work So Far

- We're operating the Alliance under the existing structure of the Northern Ireland Association of Infant Mental Health (AIMH NI). Stronger From The Start News and materials are shared on the [AIMH NI webpages](#).
- A Stronger from the Start IMH Alliance Steering Group has been convened to model active participation, collaboration and leadership across the community & voluntary sector. If your agency is a position to contribute some resource/time to the work of the Alliance, please contact eiilsh.robinson@barnardos.org.uk for more information.
- We have commenced work on the development of a #StrongerFromTheStart Manifesto, which will set our shared vision and key asks, and a Pledge Card, enabling individuals and organisations to publicly make a commitment to join us in this important work.
- We hosted an online roundtable event for MLAs on 19 November 2021 to engage MLAs in discussions on infant mental health and the work of the Alliance. We'll be following up on queries raised and commitments made over the next few weeks and months.

What We're Planning Next

- We aim to finalise the Manifesto in the coming weeks and we welcome input from everyone, particularly those with lived experience. To get involved or to find out more, contact us at eiilsh.robinson@barnardos.org.uk
- The Stronger from the Start Alliance is open to all community and voluntary groups based/working in Northern Ireland. Interested groups can contact eiilsh.robinson@barnardos.org.uk using 'Stronger From The Start Alliance' in the subject of their email.

