



*In partnership to promote the Health & Welfare of the  
Coventry & Warwickshire Irish Community*



**Your Invitation to:**

**'Health & Welfare of the Coventry & Warwickshire Irish Community' – 1 Day Conference.**

On behalf of Teach na hEireann, (Rehab UK Coventry Irish Elders Centre) and The Coventry Irish Society, I am delighted to send your invitation to register your attendance at our jointly hosted **'Health & Welfare Conference'**:

**Event:** Health & Welfare Conference – Coventry & Warwickshire Irish Community  
**Venue:** Menzies Leofric Hotel – Coventry City Centre  
**Date:** Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2008  
**Time:** 09.00 - 15.00  
**Cost:** £70 for 1<sup>st</sup> delegate, £50 for 2<sup>nd</sup> and additional delegates  
**Organisers:** **Rehab Coventry Irish Elders Centre & The Coventry Irish Society**

This forum is for the communication and collaboration of the health & welfare issues surrounding the Irish Community in Coventry & Warwickshire.

One of the greatest causes for concern is the continuance of ill health through the Irish Community. The reasons are complex and include socio-economic factors associated with poverty such as poor housing, diet, and environment but there is a further collection of factors surrounding the Irish identity and culture which demands that the health and social care professions and the Irish themselves to develop culturally informed approaches to care as a matter of some urgency.

**The four main objectives for the day are: -**

- To extend awareness of the widespread, serious and persistent health problems in the Irish Community in Coventry and Warwickshire.
- To consider how existing initiatives can encourage improved health care for this community.
- To transcend biases which render the Irish Community invisible and excluded from equitable and adequate health care.
- To start a momentum towards developing specific policies and practises for the Coventry and Warwickshire Irish Community.

In order to help us achieve these objectives, we are delighted to confirm speakers for the day (among others) will include talks from:

	<p><b>Dr. Mary Tilki</b> Mary has been Chair of the Federation of Irish Societies for three years having been Community Care Officer for a number of years. She came from Ireland like many before and since to train as a nurse in the late 1960's, and has since held posts in management and education in the NHS. She is now a lecturer in health and social care at Middlesex University with a particular interest in inequalities in health and migration. She has almost 15 years experience as a trustee of Irish Voluntary Sector organisations providing housing, health and social care to Irish people in London.</p>
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**Mike O'Brien – MP for Bedworth**

Mike O'Brien also served on the Treasury Select Committee and later as a frontbench shadow Minister in the City from 1996-1997 and was appointed as a Minister at the Home Office after the General Election in May 1997. He worked as a Minister on the Crime and Disorder Act, the Immigration and Asylum Act, The Human Rights Act, The Representation of the People Act 1999, The Political Parties and Referendum Bill and The Race Relations Amendment Bill. He also dealt with race equality. In 2002, he became a Foreign Office Minister. Mike later served as Minister of State for Energy from 2004 – 2005. In May 2005, he was appointed the Solicitor General. He advised the Government on matters of law, and helped the Attorney General to supervise the prosecutions service. Mike is currently Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions.



**Professor Paula McGee**

Professor of Nursing at Birmingham City University, Paula's research focuses the relationships between culture, health, illness and care and she regularly undertakes staff development work about this in both NHS Trusts, and internationally to promote ethical and cultural competence in both working environments and in patient care. Paula is the editor of *'Diversity in Health and Social Care'* and is committed to the provision of ethical and cultural competence in both working environments and in patient care. She is also the associate editor of the *'Research Ethics Review'*

my contact details are shown below; please feel free to call me at any time. I look forward to hearing from you.

Best regards

Sue Norman  
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