

# Politics Plus



Programme  
Overview

**2017-  
2018**

# Member Development

### Experts in Residence

Offering MLAs direct access to practitioners and academics recognised as leaders within their field, these one to one confidential sessions are designed to build personal capacity in bespoke areas. Some examples of these sessions include Critical Thinking; Strategic Planning; Communication; and Speech Delivery. Sessions typically last one to two hours and are arranged upon request.

**Audience:** MLAs

**Date:** Upon Request

### Speech Delivery

This immersive half-day workshop uses proven technical exercises derived from performance and training methodologies to explore how to use the voice, speech and body language to increase confidence

and creativity in communication.

**Audience:** MLAs and Key Party Support Staff

**Date:** Ongoing



### Speech Writing

When a speech goes well, it's power remains unmatched. However, when it goes wrong, the consequences can be catastrophic. This course is designed to cover the essential skills required of those involved in writing speeches. The course will analyse "great" speeches, while delivering best practice on crafting speeches, how to successfully use rhetorical devices and how to effectively structure a speech.

**Audience:** MLAs & Key Party Support Staff

**Date:** TBC



### Understanding the Media

These interactive workshops cover all aspects of handling the media and participating in interviews, including how to influence the direction of the interview and dealing with difficult questions, as well as simulated interview situations.

**Audience:** MLAs

**Date:** Ongoing



### Photography for Social Media

This workshop gives participants the knowledge and advice to take full advantage of social media while providing them with the confidence to effectively deliver their message through photography, with simple tricks to make the most of mobile device camera, tips and pitfalls of social media photography and advice to enable them to convey their message to their target audience.

**Audience:** MLAs & Key Party Support Staff

**Date:** Upon Request

### Scrutiny of Legislation

This is an extremely important aspect of the work of MLAs – the consideration and passing of legislation is their primary role as Members of the Legislative Assembly. Politics Plus provides both induction sessions and on-going training to increase their knowledge and skills in this regard.

**Audience:** MLAs & Committee Staff

**Date:** Ongoing

### Committee Plus

This practical programme will enable participants to: understand the various Committee roles and responsibilities; identify and practice key skills and explore best practice; develop skills in chairing meetings effectively to deliver Committee outcomes; control the flow of Committee meetings; manage the agenda and the timing of the Committee meetings; explore tactics to deal with difficult people during Committee meetings in an effective way; learn how to encourage contribution from Members; how to get the best from everyone at the meeting; and understand how to utilize feedback for more effective outcomes.

**Audience:** MLAs

**Date:** Ongoing

### Effective Questioning for Committees

This workshop helps participants develop effective questioning techniques in order to improve committee scrutiny. In addition, it aids participants in understanding the role of the chair, individual members and support staff, developing effective participation strategies and working across party lines.

**Audience:** MLAs & Committee Staff

**Date:** Upon Request



### Inspire – Wellbeing Workshops

To support Members in their representative and legislative roles, these workshops have been developed to provide Members with the opportunity to work directly with dedicated staff who have a wealth of experience across addiction, mental health and learning disability services. Workshops will support Members in developing their understanding of key issues within this area, which will enhance the scrutiny of policy and practice. In addition, Members will have the opportunity to develop their own well-being with trained experts who will provide them with practical tools to improve work-life balance and to manage issues related to their busy work patterns.

**Audience:** MLAs & Party Support Staff

**Date:** TBC

### Outcomes Framework Programme

Enabling MLAs to understand the Outcomes-based Framework from the Programme for Government and what is expected of them as Members in relation to its implementation. The Outcomes-based Framework details 14 outcomes with 42 indicators for the measurement of their success. This programme will provide Members with a better understanding of the implementation of the Outcomes-based Framework and how this will impact their legislative and scrutiny roles within the Northern Ireland Assembly.

**Audience:** MLAs

**Date:** Upon Request



### Economic Appraisal

Key to an MLA's role is to ensure public money is used effectively. Economic Appraisals are a systematic process for examining alternative uses of resources. Through this programme Members will learn the basic elements of appraisal development; when and how an appraisal should be used; and how to effectively scrutinise appraisals.

**Audience:** MLAs & Key Party Support Staff

**Date:** Upon Request



### Policy Development & Policy Budgeting

With each new policy directive, consideration must be given to the cost of policy implementation. This Programme will allow Members to expand their knowledge and skills regarding policy development and the methods used in costing policy. This will provide Members with an opportunity to enhance their legislative and scrutiny skills. The programme will also support Members in developing their own effective policies as it provides insight into policy development strategies, costing policies and the creation of a policy budget.

**Audience:** MLAs & Party Support Staff

**Date:** Upon Request

### Social Media Workshops

This half-day course delivered by social media experts helps participants understand their audience, build an effective digital strategy, outline potential benefits and risks of using social media and practice delivering key messages.

**Audience:** MLAs, Key Party Support Staff

**Date:** Upon Request



## Women

### Women in Public Life Programme

This innovative programme is designed to build strategies, competencies and networks to enhance the influence and authority of women in public and third sector organisations. Through this programme participants learn how to leverage their positions to re-shape outcomes and strengthen their personal impact.

**Audience:** Senior Public Officials

**Date:** Ongoing

### Assembly Women's Caucus

A united Women's Assembly Caucus, working together irrespective of political party affiliation, to ensure equality for all; to provide an opportunity for women to exchange and ensure there is cross-party collaboration on ideas; to form collective platforms on particular policies and actions, and; to support one another on issues and areas of common concern.

**Audience:** Female MLAs

**Date:** Ongoing

### Women in Politics Programme

This programme will equip participants with the skills necessary to embark on, or further, their political career, focusing on core issues, such as effective leadership, conflict management and strategic thinking. The aim of the programme is for participants to have increased knowledge, enhanced confidence, and a range of new tools, including a unique Strategic Action Plan to support their personal career aspirations.

**Audience:** Elected Representatives & Party Support Staff

**Date:** Ongoing

### Be Seen Be Heard

Politics Plus have partnered in this innovative programme, which is also sponsored by the University of Ulster, BBC and UTV.

This programme aims to address the lack of female representation in the media and will provide media familiarisation training to women across a range of industries. This programme is designed to ensure there is a wide pool of female experts who can provide commentary and analysis on a range of subjects in the Media.

**Audience:** Female Industry Experts

**Date:** Ongoing

### Think Tank Programme

Politics Plus is offering a series of 'think tank' style workshops for political parties.

The aim is to bring together female members of each party across all levels with the purpose of generating open, productive dialogue. Through these sessions participants will be able to identify key issues and policy proposals that they believe should be priorities at both the party and parliamentary levels.

**Audience:** MLAs, Councillors, Party Support Staff, Constituency Staff & Volunteers.

**Dates:** Upon Request



## Youth

### Youth Initiative

The US: NI Youth Leadership Initiative is a collaborative one-year project involving the U.S. Consulate and Politics Plus. Through a series of evening workshops, the initiative will seek to promote civic responsibility, build leadership skills, and encourage democratic engagement among young people from across Northern Ireland, working in partnership with all local councils.

**Audience:** Youth Sector

**Dates and locations 2017:** 25th May, Enniskillen; 1st June, L/Derry; 22nd June, Downpatrick; 28th September, Ballymena; 11th October, Armagh; 19th October, Coleraine; 25th November, Belfast.

### Diversity

#### Diverse Ability Leadership Programme

To ensure Northern Ireland can benefit from leadership that is diverse and representative, Politics Plus have designed a bespoke capacity building leadership programme specifically tailored for those living with disability. The programme has been developed through consultations with prominent organisations such as NICVA and Disability Action. The programme will provide participants with an opportunity to avail of our innovative professional development initiatives in a more widely accessible format. Participants will have the opportunity to develop a wide range of skills needed to take on leadership roles, such as: strategic-planning, presentation-styles, chairing a board and being an effective board member etc.

**Audience:** Future Leaders

**Date:** TBC

#### Boardroom Apprentice

Politics Plus are partners in The Boardroom Apprentice Programme with Strictly Boardroom. The programme aims to provide practical experience, training and support to individuals who wish to become board members within public and third sectors, training participants on how to be an effective Board Member, as well as addressing diversity on boards. Each participant will take up a position as an Apprentice Board Member as part of the initiative.

**Audience:** Individuals interested in Board positions.

**Date:** Ongoing



### International

#### International Best Practice Visits

Politics Plus organises International Best Practice Visits to other legislatures to enable our elected representatives to network, benchmark and innovate through engaging with their peers in the United Kingdom, Ireland and Internationally. These visits will be focused on how the role of women can be enhanced within politics and public life.

**Audience:** Female MLAs

**Date:** Ongoing

#### American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL)

ACYPL works with in-country organisations, Politics Plus being one of them, to develop international education exchanges for young political leaders worldwide. These programmes aim to explore the governance, politics, policy making, bilateral relations, culture and geographic diversity of the host country.

Participants of ACYPL exchange programmes are provided with opportunities to strengthen their personal leadership skills and enhance their understanding of international relations. The programme provides participants with a chance to cultivate long-lasting relationships among people who are poised to become tomorrow's global leaders and policy makers.

**Audience:** Elected officials, Political Party staff & opinion leaders aged 25-40

**Date:** October 2017

#### International Consultancy

Our international work at Politics Plus involves engaging across institutional settings and political systems to highlight and proffer the benefit of our experience in Northern Ireland. Parliamentary strengthening is central to the international consultancy role of Politics Plus. Good governance has become an increasing focus for international development.

We have previously worked with Parliaments in Philippines; Iraq; Israel; New Zealand; Armenia; Macedonia; Algeria; Kosovo; Libya; and Egypt;

**Audience:** International Parliaments; MLAs

**Date:** Ongoing

#### International Visitor Leadership Programme (IVLP)

This exchange programme, which takes place twice each year, selects 10 opinion leaders specializing in the Northern Ireland political system to travel to Washington, DC; Boston, Massachusetts; and Little Rock, Arkansas. Through visits to a range of government offices, think tanks, political organizations, and private organizations, participants will learn about the key structures, actors, and dynamics in U.S. policymaking at a federal, state, and local level.

Willkommen  
Bienvenido  
歡迎  
Bienvenue

The primary aim of this exchange program is to provide key opinion leaders in Northern Ireland with a better understanding of U.S. state legislatures. So as to provide a full understanding, participants will also be introduced to the federal and local systems of governance and how they interact with the state level on various subject areas. Participants will also be introduced to social and cultural elements of the United States to provide a better understanding of the diversity of the American people and how this influences decisions made at each level of governance.

**Audience:** Elected Representatives; Public Officials; Opinion Leaders

**Date:** Ongoing