2017 was a highly significant year for Registered Nurses – Learning Disability who were extremely well represented at the 2017 RCN NI Nurse of the Year awards. RNLDs made the finalists’ list in four distinct categories, recognising the importance and value of the skills and expertise of RNLD across a range of specialities.

This meeting of the Professional Development Forum will focus on the award winning work of the 2017 finalists:

- The **RCN NI Nurse of the Year 2017 Siobhan Rogan** is from the SHSCT who received the overall award recognising her inspirational work in establishing the first fully integrated Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) for young people with intellectual disability. Siobhan cannot be at the Forum meeting, her colleague Racheal McMaster will provide an overview of the service on her behalf.

- **Paul McAleer** from the NHSCT won the Inspiring Excellence in Mental Health & Learning Disability for his role in delivering the ‘Second Chance for Change’ psychodrama project.

- **Sara McCann**, an Epilepsy Nurse specialist, also from the NHSCT won the Learning Disability Award Category for her work in developing a Nurse Led Epilepsy Clinic.

- **Yvonne Diamond** from Priory Adult care was the runner up in the Chief Nursing Officers Award and was jointly nominated for her achievements if developing a new pathway for patients with complex mental health issues as a consequence of acquired brain injury. Unfortunately Yvonne cannot join us at the Forum meeting.

The nomination processes for RCN NI Nurse of The Year 2018 has just launched, **closing on 16 February 2018**, bringing an opportunity for RNLD to again shine throughout the breadth of categories.