

# PIVOTAL

Pivotal is a new public policy think tank for Northern Ireland.

Pivotal is independent, evidence-based and future-focussed.

It aims to help Northern Ireland prosper by improving public policy and involving a wider range of people in public policy debate.

Pivotal is a think tank looking at economic and social issues in Northern Ireland. Pivotal is:

**Future-focussed** – we promote policy solutions that will improve the lives of people across Northern Ireland.

**Evidence-based** – we use data and evidence of what works to help improve public policy.

**Independent** – we act in the public interest for the common good.

**Inclusive and accessible** – we engage a wide range of people in public policy debate, particularly those whose voices are rarely heard.

**Connected with others** – we work together with the public, policy makers, politicians, academics and others, while maintaining our independence.

**Not politically aligned** – we are not linked to any political party and do not take a view on the constitutional future of Northern Ireland.

## What Pivotal does

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Pivotal uses evidence-based research to encourage and inform public debate, and works to bring about better public policy. We do this research ourselves or we commission it from others.

We involve a wide range of people in public debate, particularly those whose voices are marginalised at present.

We bring people together from different sectors and with different experiences, to share their insights and help produce better outcomes.

We do research, run events, facilitate discussions and engage with social media.

## Why is Pivotal needed?

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Northern Ireland faces many economic and social challenges, such as economic under-performance, struggling public services, poverty and inequality.

But serious discussion of key policy issues is often limited.

Many of the public are disengaged from policy debate and disillusioned with traditional politics. Pivotal aims to improve the public policy debate by providing independent, evidence-based challenge to government, and giving more people a voice in public debate.

Elsewhere in the UK and Ireland, think tanks provide a vital challenge to government and play an important role in shaping public policy, but no wide-ranging think tanks exist in Northern Ireland.

## How can I get involved?

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Check our website [pivotalppf.org](http://pivotalppf.org) or follow us on Twitter @PivotalPPF to hear about future events and research.

## Who we are

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Pivotal's Director is Ann Watt. Pivotal's work is overseen by a Board of Trustees, with guidance from a reference group.

**Pivotal's Board:** Peter Sheridan (Chair), Lisa Faulkner Byrne, Richard Good, Olwen Lyner, Seamus McAleavey and Alan Whysall.

**Pivotal's Reference Group:** the Board plus Jessica Caldwell, Eamonn Donaghy, Donal de Buitléir, Roisin Brown, Marianne Elliott, Richard English, George Fergusson, David Gavaghan, Neil Gibson, Cathy Gormley Heenan, Leo Green, Eva Grosman, Will Haire, Robert Hazell, John Hunter, John McCallister, Fergal McFerran, Angela McGowan, Ann McGregor, Brigid McManus, Alison Millar, David Phinnemore, Dawn Purvis, Trevor Ringland, Alastair Ross, Suneil Sharma and Suzanne Wylie.

Pivotal is an independent organisation, but has the support of Queen's University Belfast and Ulster University as academic partners.