



## **The Psychological Society of Ireland (PSI) and The Heads of Psychology Services Ireland (HPSI)**

### **Joint Statement of Purpose**

The **Psychological Society of Ireland** is the learned and professional body for psychology and psychologists in the Republic of Ireland, with a primary objective to advance psychology as an applied science in Ireland and elsewhere. Among its aims are a commitment to setting and maintaining high standards of practice in psychology and to exploring new and innovative ways of furthering psychology as an applied science.

The **Heads of Psychology Services Ireland** is a forum for managers of psychology services, in the publicly funded health services, to work as a leadership collective in overseeing and advancing high quality psychology services and to inform and guide national developments and best practice models of care.

While both bodies are distinct entities with some varying objectives and aims, The Psychological Society of Ireland (PSI) and The Heads of Psychology Services Ireland (HPSI) share the following collective aims and objectives:

- Providing expert and evidenced-based psychological knowledge for the betterment of others.
- Supporting the delivery of evidenced-based and effective services.
- Contributing to strategic planning and policy in health service design.
- Advocating for the protection and enhancement of the psychological wellbeing of others.
- Supporting the advancement of the profession of psychology and psychologists in health service settings.
- Commitment to and active support of high standards of professional training for psychologists and for the continuing professional development of qualified psychologists.

Both state, as a common activity, the liaison, co-operation and fostering of positive relationships with other bodies, associations and institutions to support the pursuit of their aims.

**The PSI and HPSI are jointly seeking to strengthen the position of psychology in the health services by coming together, in common purpose, to provide a strong and cohesive voice in internal and external communications. This is when doing so is the most efficient and effective response to maximising the contribution of psychology to the public, in health service development and design, and/ or in government and legislative matters.**

To the above end, a jointly chaired PSI HPSI committee was first established, in October 2020, as a quarterly forum for communication and joint working. The committee is supplemented with additional regular interim meetings and communication between the PSI president and HPSI chair.

The committee has developed this shared statement of purpose and will further develop new procedures for: prompt collaborative responding to requests or opportunities for strategic input to health service development; supporting sharing of resources; communicating collaboratively on other matters relating to the resourcing or advancement of the profession in the health sector.



Megan Gaffney  
PSI President 2021



Aisling White  
HPSI Chair 2021-2022