



Cumann Síceolaithe Éireann

Statement – 13 October 2022

The Psychological Society of Ireland (PSI) welcomes the Oireachtas Sub-Committee Report on Pre-Legislative Security of the Draft Heads of Bill to Amend the Mental Health Act 2001

The PSI wishes to extend thanks to chairperson Senator Frances Black and the Sub-Committee for their work and commitment on this important issue and for extending an invitation to the PSI to present.

In particular, the PSI wishes to endorse many of the recommendations of the Sub-Committee including:

1. Human rights-based approach in the proposed legislation and in mental health services and the guiding principle of the revised Act (page25)
2. Fully adhere to the spirit and rationale of the UN Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disability (page 25)
3. Remove reference to the term "mental disorder" and replace it with "persons with psychosocial disability" (page25)
4. Clinical leadership and governance in mental health - the Sub-Committee recommendation of a move towards a multidisciplinary model in the Bill and a move towards a shared governance model and more parity between professionals working on multidisciplinary teams. This gives greater voice to the people accessing services and rebalances the perceived control of the medical model over the care of the individual (page 42)
5. Governance model and roles need to be clearly defined (page 42)
6. The role of clinical lead and clinical director in all community mental health services be expanded to include qualified and experienced mental health professionals in line with international best practice (page 42)

The PSI looks forward to continuing to proactively work with Government to bring about the legislative amendments recommended to ensure that the best interests of all those who use mental health services is enshrined in law.