



**Press release – 27.02.2019**

## **Children’s Rights Alliance Report Card welcomed by the Psychological Society of Ireland**

The Psychological Society of Ireland (PSI) welcomes the release of the Children’s Rights Alliance Report Card 2019 on Government action on a variety of targets.

In particular, the PSI wishes to comment on the ‘Mental Health’ aspect of the Report Card.

The Children’s Rights Alliance scored the Government a grade D-minus in relation to the lack of tangible and proactive improvements with regard to child mental health in Ireland. The PSI shares the concern of the Alliance with regard to the slow pace of positive changes in this area.

In 2018, the PSI expressed its views and concerns with regard to the structure of the review of *A Vision for Change* and the Society is similarly concerned about the lack of concrete progress on the revision document.

The PSI welcomed the Youth Mental Health Taskforce report; however, the Society is very concerned with the lack of tangible changes arising from the recommendations contained within this report.

Access to mental health care in a timely manner is something that the PSI has long advocated for.

The PSI President Ian O’Grady noted that: “Timely access to mental health supports is not a new concept. Children, young people, and their parents have an inalienable right to mental health supports and the priority has to be on early intervention. To achieve this, we have to adequately resource primary care psychology services to meet this need. There is an imbalance in media coverage of acute mental health care and beds. Children deserve, and have a right to, early intervention for mental health difficulties and thus far, as noted by our colleagues in the Children’s Rights Alliance, successive governments have failed to adequately support our vulnerable children. If we provide early and timely psychological supports, then the over-reliance on acute beds will diminish.”

**ENDS.**

**For further information and/or to arrange an interview, please contact:**

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Notes:

- Click here for the 2018 PSI submission to A Vision for Change Oversight Group;
- The Psychological Society of Ireland is the learned and professional body for psychology in the Republic of Ireland. Established in 1970, the Society currently has almost 3,000 members;
- The PSI is committed to maintaining high standards of practice in psychology and also to exploring new and innovative ways of furthering psychology as a real and applied science.