

20 February 2022

PSI Statement on CAMHS-ID - Mental Health Services for Children with Intellectual Disabilities: Draft National Model of Service document, HSE

The Psychological Society of Ireland (PSI) has written to the Health Service Executive (HSE) in relation to the National Model of Service draft document that was recently circulated with regard to Mental Health Services for Children with Intellectual Disabilities (CAMHS-ID). PSI members have significant concerns in relation to this draft document and the model of service as currently outlined.

The PSI welcomes the development of a model of service for children with an intellectual disability. We feel it is very important that disability services across the HSE are strengthened and integrated within existing mental health, disability and primary care systems.

The Model of Service as outlined in this draft document is a predominately medically-led/disease model approach and is not appropriate to a CAMHS-ID service. It does not take into account potentially more innovative approaches to developing models of services, promoting the virtues of multidisciplinary working and the importance of parity of esteem between professions and the important role each profession has in clinical leadership.

The PSI has respectfully requested that the launch of the Model of Service, on Thursday 03 March 2022, be postponed. This is so that the PSI, as the representative body of psychologists in Ireland, has an opportunity to comment on the proposed draft to input and quality assure the Model of Service for CAMHS-ID so that it is fit for purpose and based on best-practice and operationalised to reflect the guiding principles – rights based, person centred, inclusive and recovery orientated practice.

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