



Cumann Síceolaithe Éireann

Press Release – Tuesday 24 January 2023

The Psychological Society of Ireland welcomes the Mental Health Commission's interim report on Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services

The Psychological Society of Ireland (PSI) has welcomed the Mental Health Commission's interim report of the *Independent Review of the provision of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) in the State by the Inspector of Mental Health Services*. The Society wishes to highlight the many concerns expressed in the interim report including 'the lack of clinical governance'. It is clear from the interim report that the current access, governance, and risk management structures are wholly unacceptable. The PSI has long advocated for a shared governance structure and distributed clinical responsibility model of mental health service that is more consistent with client centred, recovery-oriented models of practice. The PSI concurs with the interim report position that the current model of care, which holds the perception that all clinical responsibility rests with a single profession namely the Consultant Psychiatrist, is 'outdated', 'unsustainable' and out of line with any international best practice.

The PSI calls for the introduction of a clinical governance model that is multidisciplinary and follows international best practice, so that child centred, timely, integrated care can be delivered to children and families with moderate to severe mental health needs who so desperately need it. The PSI welcomes the interim report's emphasis on the unacceptability of the variance in wait times to access and, furthermore, within CAMHS teams. The views of the Mental Health Commission are echoed by the Society in that variations in treatment are a 'postcode lottery for children and families' which gives rise to 'inequalities of care for children dependent on their address'. The PSI is calling on Government to publish a timeline and implementation plan of how they will bring CAMHS staffing to the levels specified in *A Vision for Change*.

Access to out-of-hours emergency mental health services needs to move to a model that is less reliant on our medical colleagues and is more representative of the multidisciplinary model of care in CAMHS. Expanding out-of-hours mental health services to involve health and social care professionals (HSCPs) is one solution to reduce the risk of inequity of out-of-hours provision across the country.

The PSI also wishes to highlight the tremendous work of CAMHS clinicians, including psychologists, to provide the best service possible for the young people and families attending in what are extremely difficult conditions and continued unsafe staffing levels.

President of the Psychological Society of Ireland Dr Anne Kehoe states: “The detailed findings of the interim report of the Independent Review of the Provision of CAMHS Services are truly striking. It is clear that the Mental Health Commission has heard the views of young people, families and CAMHS staff. It is obvious that urgent reform is needed to bring all Irish CAMHS in line with Article 24 on the Rights of the Child in accessing mental health care. If we are to have CAMHS provision that is fit for those who need it, then urgent change is needed to provide appropriate resources so that safe, effective, child centred and timely care can be delivered. We eagerly await the publication of the Mental Health Commission’s full report.”

ENDS.

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

Darragh Greenalgh

PSI Brand Communications Coordinator

Communications@psychologicalsociety.ie

+353 87 755 2409

Points to note:

- The Psychological Society of Ireland (PSI) advocated for shared governance and a distributed responsibility model of mental health service in the Society’s March 2021 submission to the public consultation on the review of the Mental Health Act 2001. The PSI submission can be viewed [here](#).
- The Psychological Society of Ireland (PSI), with almost 4,000 members, is the learned and professional body for the profession in the Republic of Ireland, with the primary object of advancing psychology as an applied science in Ireland and elsewhere.
- Connect with the PSI through [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#), and [LinkedIn](#).