



**Press Release – Monday 09 May 2022**

## **Psychological Society of Ireland to launch professional practice guidelines in relation to assessment, formulation, and diagnosis of autism in children and adolescents**

- Adam Harris, CEO of AsIAm, to officially launch guidelines
- Dr Niall Muldoon, Ombudsman for Children, to speak at launch

On Tuesday, 10 May 2022, the Psychological Society of Ireland (PSI) will launch the second edition of the *Professional Practice Guidelines for the Assessment, Formulation, and Diagnosis of Autism in Children and Adolescents*.

Adam Harris, CEO of Ireland's national autism charity AsIAm, will officially launch the PSI guidelines. The Ombudsman for Children, Dr Niall Muldoon, will join PSI in welcoming the guidelines, which promote a human rights-based model of disability.

This updated edition of the PSI autism guidelines replaces the first edition from 2010. Since the publication of the 2010 guidelines the landscape of autism awareness, understanding, research, and practice has changed considerably, both internationally and within the Irish context.

The new edition of the guidelines has been developed to promote proficiency and to help facilitate a high level of professional practice by psychologists. The guidelines were developed over a three-year process, led by a working group from the committee of the PSI Special Interest Group in Autism (SIGA), including autistic psychologists, and in consultation with the broader membership of the PSI. Ms Ruth Connolly, Chair of SIGA and Principal Clinical Psychology Manager, will also speak at the launch.

PSI president Dr Vincent McDarby states: "I welcome the launch of the *Professional Practice Guidelines for the Assessment, Formulation, and Diagnosis of Autism in Children and Adolescents*, which is based on recent research and emerging practice trends.

"It is vitally important that experienced psychologists are empowered to use their clinical judgement to ensure that individual needs are met, and these guidelines emphasise the need for flexibility in

relation to the essential components of the assessment process. Autistic children and adolescents deserve the same chances in life as their peers; improving the diagnostic process is the first important step on that journey.

“What we now need is Government to increase the numbers of psychologists being trained to reduce unacceptable waiting lists for children who require a diagnostic and assessment of their needs.”

**ENDS.**

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

Lisa Stafford  
Head of Communications  
087 945 2801  
[lisastafford@psychologicalsociety.ie](mailto:lisastafford@psychologicalsociety.ie)

Darragh Greenalgh  
Brand Communications Coordinator  
087 755 2409  
[communications@psychologicalsociety.ie](mailto:communications@psychologicalsociety.ie)

To note:

- The launch takes place at 10:30am at Buswells Hotel, Molesworth Street, Dublin 2.
- The PSI, with circa 4,000 members, is the professional body for psychology and psychologists in the Republic of Ireland.
- The PSI is committed to maintaining high standards of practice in psychology and to exploring new and innovative ways of furthering psychology as an applied science.