



Press release – 19.10.18

The Psychological Society of Ireland responds to the Final Report of the Joint Committee on the Future of Mental Health Care 2018

The Psychological Society of Ireland welcomes the publication of the Final Report of the Joint Committee on the Future of Mental Health Care, which was published on Wednesday 17 October 2018.

In responding to the Joint Committee's Second Interim Report, the Psychological Society of Ireland (PSI) made a number of recommendations, 20 in total, for the Joint Committee to consider.

Following the publication of the Joint Committee's Final Report, the PSI particularly welcomes:

- *The recommendation that Department's Oversight Group make recommendations as to how the number of psychologists required might be objectively determined from time to time and may be based on projected demand and targets as regards levels of service.*
 - The PSI supports an evidence based approach to ensuring that sufficient numbers of Psychologists are available at all levels of need, especially at a primary level.
- *The recommendation that the HSE and the Department of Health should outline how a national protocol for the use of smartphones and social media would be developed.*
 - The PSI has particular expertise in this arena and is available to support this development.
- *The recommendation that a pilot project be undertaken to ascertain if access to talk therapies in primary care teams would improve outcomes for mental health service users in primary care.*
 - The PSI would be happy to engage with the HSE in the design and evaluation of any project relating to improving outcomes in mental health through increasing access to talk therapies.
- *The recommendation that consideration be given to reviewing the role of psychiatrists and streamlining their workloads by distributing some or all of the above functions to other team members. The Department of Health should take the lead on this.*

- The PSI has advocated in its submission the firm conviction that clinical governance in mental health teams requires urgent revision. Distributing some functions previously exclusively held by Psychiatry to other disciplines, including Psychology would be a progressive first step and one that PSI is happy to engage in with the Department of Health.

For full details of the PSI response submission to the Committee's Second Interim Report on the Future of Mental Health Care please see www.psychologicalsociety.ie.

ENDS.

Notes to Editor:

- The Psychological Society of Ireland (PSI), with circa 3,000 members, is the learned and professional body for Psychology in the Republic of Ireland;
- In September 2018, the PSI submitted the Society's response to the Houses of the Joint Oireachtas Committee on the Future of Mental Health Care's Second Interim Report. Please click [here](#) to view the submission

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