



The College of Psychiatry of Ireland
Coláiste Síciatrachta na hÉireann

Press Statement 22 December 2011

The College of Psychiatry welcome Minister Reilly's intention to implement a mental health directorate as part of the reform of our health services

The College of Psychiatry welcomes the announcement by Minister Reilly that mental health will be managed by a separate directorate, as one of the seven directorates planned for our health service. While those with mental health problems receive services from many areas of the HSE, having its own separate Directorate will enable greater coordination and interdepartmental communication. In 'A Vision for Change' we have a clear outline of how this directorate should be managed.

Currently the lack of a single management structure for Mental Health Service provision has meant that there is a continuing marked disparity in service provision throughout the country. We can now look forward to the development of regional and national Mental Health Services, which require large population bases. This will also ensure Mental Health Services have a realistic national mental health budget and will be able to plan appropriate national training programmes for the relevant professional groups.

We look forward to hearing details of how the directorate will be managed. 'A Vision for Change' is clear in how Mental Health Services should be managed, that is, by a multidisciplinary team which includes a member of the National Service User Executive (NSUE). There is now an ideal opportunity to introduce this management team structure, which is recommended in the 2006 policy document.

The Challenge for us all - government, service providers and society - is to ensure those with mental health problems are not marginalised and are afforded the same rights as those with other illnesses. In order for that to happen we need to work towards the budget for mental health services moving to the internationally recognised and recommended level of 12% of the national health spend.

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