

October 21st 2016
College of Psychiatrists of Ireland

**Families and carers of those with mental illness
connect with psychiatrists to encourage recovery**

**Professionals, family members/carers, and service users weigh in on their role
in recovery**

The College of Psychiatrists of Ireland (CPsychI) hosted their second annual conference with Shine on Friday 14th October with a focus on the role of family in promoting recovery. Family members/carers and service users had the opportunity to discuss their needs and issues during panel discussions with various key stakeholders such as **Liam Hennessy (Head of Service User, Family Member and Carer Engagement in the Mental Health Division)**, **Dr. Ruth Loane (CPsychI President and Consultant Old Age Psychiatrist)**, and **Susan McFeely (National Coordinator of Shine)**.

Presentations were given on **Confidentiality**; the **Assisted Decision Making (Capacity) Act 2015**; and the **role of the GP**, and their impact on those caring for persons with a mental illness. Unique perspectives were also highlighted by members of **CPsychI REFOCUS*** (*Recovery Experience Forum of Carers and Users of the Services*) Committee who stressed the importance of listening to family members/carers and their role in recovery.

The conference was split into two themes: ***Family Involvement and Confidentiality***; and ***Family Involvement in Care - The way forward***.

Following valuable feedback from last year's conference in Dublin CPsychI and Shine decided to host the conference in Galway this year to increase engagement with those in the West. Many praised the diversity of attendees and experiences shared with an equal number of psychiatrists, carers, and service users. The conference made for many thought provoking discussions with open discussion from the floor encouraged.

ENDS

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Notes for the Editor:

The College of Psychiatrists of Ireland was formed in 2009. It is the professional body for psychiatrists in the Republic of Ireland. The Mission of the College of Psychiatrists of Ireland is to promote excellence in the practice of psychiatry. The College of Psychiatrists of Ireland is the sole body recognised by the Medical Council and the HSE for the training of doctors to become specialists in psychiatry and for the continuing assurance of the career long competence of specialists in psychiatry. The College supports the delivery of mental health services in line with the recovery model and supports the delivery of the national policy on mental health services A Vision for Change.

* In 2011, The College of Psychiatrists of Ireland established REFOCUS, (Recovery Experience Forum of Carers and Users of the Services) a forum where the views and experiences of service users and family members/carers would inform and influence all aspects of College business and, in particular, the training of young, future psychiatrists.

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