



College of Psychiatrists of Ireland

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Press Statement 19th September 2016

Termination of HSE focus on mental health a major concern to Psychiatrists

The College of Psychiatrists of Ireland is gravely concerned at media reports today that the HSE plans to end the role of National Director for Mental Health.

Dr John Hillery, Director of Communication and Public Education for the College explained the concerns,

"At a time of unprecedented problems in delivering emergency care and continuity of care to people with mental health issues the HSE's focus on the needs of those with mental illness should be increasing not, as this move suggests, decreasing".

"The College is due to meet the Minister of State for Mental Health, Deputy Helen McEntee, this week and will ask her to intervene to stop this dilution of leadership" Dr Hillery said.

Ends

Note to 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.

**A Vision for Change (2006) is a strategy document which sets out the direction for Mental Health Services in Ireland. It is a framework for promoting mental health at all levels of society and for delivering specialist care to everyone who needs it. It recognises both the strengths and inadequacies of existing services and outlines a strategy for building on the innovations heralded by Planning for the Future. It details a series of actions for developing a comprehensive person-centred model of mental health service provision.*

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