



**College of Psychiatrists
of Ireland**

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Press statement - 28 February 2013

Psychiatrists focus on Youth Mental Health for 2013

For the second year running the College of Psychiatrists of Ireland has chosen to focus some of its work on a particular theme within mental health services. For 2012, that theme was the Homelessness and Mental Illness and for 2013 it is 'Youth Mental Health'.

The 2013 theme was officially launched at the recent College AGM with a paper especially drawn up for the College entitled '**Youth Mental Health: making the vision a reality in Ireland**, A paper for the Annual General Meeting of the College of Psychiatrists of Ireland' by Helen Coughlan, Clinical Research Fellow with the Department of Psychiatry. Presentations on the theme at the AGM were also given by a young woman who is in recovery on her experience of using both Child and Adult Mental Health Services and by Professor Alison Yung, University of Manchester who spoke on 'Youth Mental Health - experience in Melbourne and Manchester'.

"The aim of having a theme is to raise members' awareness of the topic, to encourage greater collaborative working between the different faculties and committees within the College, to work with other organisations in mental health and to use members' expertise in order to try and bring about practical and effective changes within mental health services" explained Dr Anne Jeffers, Director External Affairs & Policy.

Many activities are planned for the year including the upcoming annual CPsychI Spike Milligan Public Speaking Competition between Medical Schools (Wednesday 6th March) with the topic '*Online or out of touch: mental health services for generation y.*'

The *Youth Mental Health* theme is being led by the Child and Adolescent Faculty, who are supported by the work of a Special Interest Group (SIG) on Youth Mental Health.

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