



Press Statement 16 May 2016

Psychiatrists to open doors and communication lines for Green Ribbon month

Two events this week will enable members of the public to engage informally with psychiatrists by Tweeting or Walking and Talking in Merrion Square

Members of the public can engage informally with psychiatrists this week through the College of Psychiatrists of Ireland 2nd annual Green Ribbon events, a Twitter night on Tuesday 17th from 7pm to 9pm and later in the week a *Walk & Talk With Psychiatrists* in Merrion Square, Dublin, Saturday 21st May at 1.30pm. (see flyers attached).

Both events will be hosted in partnership with See Change, the National Stigma Reduction Partnership, as part of [Green Ribbon month](#) and are an important step in challenging the stigma associated with mental illness and psychiatry..

On Tuesday the College will host a live **Questions & Answers session on Twitter** from 7pm to 9pm. Consultant Psychiatrists Dr John Hillery and Dr Mike Scully will take charge of the @GreenRibbonIRL account to engage with people about mental health recovery and their questions about psychiatry. Users can ask their questions and get involved by tweeting using the hashtag #ASKPSYCH

The **Walk & Talk With Psychiatrists** in Merrion Square is about getting outdoors to promote wellness and activity. It is also a chance for service users/patients, carers and mental health professionals to mix in an informal, welcoming, supportive and social atmosphere to discuss psychiatry in an outdoor setting.

Director of Communications & Public Education Dr John Hillery says

“The Walk and Talk with Psychiatrists was a highlight of the College calendar last year and I was personally overwhelmed by how engaged and gracious all attendees were”.

The programme will again be framed by a walk around Merrion Square punctuated by stops at points of interest for short talks from psychiatrists and See Change representatives and will conclude with refreshments in the garden of the College building on Herbert St.

Ends

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’.*

**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.*



College of Psychiatrists of Ireland

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