HOMELESSNESS & MENTAL ILLNESS: WHAT CAN BE DONE?

Marking World Mental Health Week 2012

Friday 12th October 2012,
The Clarion Hotel,
IFSC, Dublin 1
Mr Frank Hynes
Frank Hynes qualified as a psychiatric nurse in St Patrick’s Hospital, Dublin and as a post-graduate general nurse in Meath Hospital, Dublin. Following a number of years working in admission and secure settings within St Brendan’s Hospital in Dublin he moved into the role of Community Mental Health Nurse for the Programme for the Homeless team in 2002: He completed a postgraduate diploma in Community Mental Health in DCU in 2005 and is a Clinical Nurse Specialist in his area of practice.

Dr Philip Timms
Philip Timms trained in medicine at Guy’s Hospital, London and then worked in ENT surgery. Before starting his psychiatric training at Guy’s in the mid-1980s, he researched the relationship between homelessness and mental illness. He then helped to set up the first UK community mental health service for homeless people, the PTSHP (Psychiatric Team for Single Homeless People). For the last 19 years he has worked as a consultant psychiatrist for the START team, a mental health outreach team for homeless people in South London.

Dr Leona Spelman
Leona Spelman works as a consultant psychiatrist with a special interest in rehabilitation with Clare Mental Health Services. A survey of service users’ perspectives on their role identified the restrictions of the ‘traditional’ models of providing accommodation. With support from GENIO, the service in which she works is addressing housing as part of the recovery planning process. Leona is a member of the College of Psychiatry of Ireland and the Royal College of Psychiatrists (UK).

Mr Mike Allen
Mike Allen is Director of Advocacy, Communications and Research at Focus Ireland, one of Ireland’s leading homeless charities. He was General Secretary of the Irish National Organisation of the Unemployed (INOU) from 1987-2000, where he served on the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Employment, the National Economic and Social Council (NESC) and other social partnership bodies. He is author of ‘The Bitter Word: Ireland’s Job Famine and its Aftermath’. He is currently a board member of The Advocacy Initiative and the Advisory Committee on Drugs (NACD) and Chair of their Treatment/Rehabilitation subcommittee. Areas of research interest include pregnant opioid users and alcohol misuse among patients on methadone treatment.

Dr Anne Jeffers
Dr Anne Jeffers is a Consultant Psychiatrist with East Galway Mental Health Services. She is a member of the Mental Health Commission and Director of External Affairs and Policy at the College of Psychiatrists of Ireland. Her interests include violence risk assessment and psychiatric services.

Dr Kevin Kilbride
Kevin Kilbride graduated in medicine from UCD in 1990. He undertook his Basic Specialist Psychiatric Training in the Eastern Health Board scheme. He completed Higher Specialist Training in Adult Psychiatry in Manchester, UK. He worked as Consultant Adult Psychiatrist in a sector in east Manchester before returning to Dublin in 2005 as consultant psychiatrist in the Programme for the Homeless, St. Brendan’s Hospital, Dublin. His interests include violence risk assessment and psychiatric services.

Dr Eamon Keenan
Eamon Keenan is a Consultant Psychiatrist in Substance Misuse at the Drug Treatment Centre Board and Clinical Director in Addictions Services Dublin Mid-Leinster (SW Region). He is a member of the National Advisory Committee on Drugs (NACCD) and Chair of their Treatment/Rehabilitation subcommittee. Areas of research interest include pregnant opioid users and alcohol misuse among patients on methadone treatment.

Ms Leonie Boland
Leone Boland has been working as a Senior Occupational Therapist within homeless services for over 8 years and with the Programme for the Homeless mental health team since 2006. Previous experience has been in the area of mental health.

Dr Austin O’Carol
Dr Austin O’Carroll worked as a full-time GP in Mountjoy Street Medical Practice in inner-city Dublin. Dr O’Carroll was instrumental in establishing Safetynet Ireland, a network for homeless health services which provides primary healthcare services to homeless people in Dublin, Cork and Galway. He is a member of the Irish Thalidomide Association and has been a strong voice in the campaign for a revised government compensation package for thalidomide survivors.

Ms Eileen Dunne
Eileen Dunne began her career with RTE in 1979. She joined the Newsroom in 1984 and for almost 30 years has worked on most of the major news stories – among them Queen Elizabeth’s visit to Ireland, general elections, and the talks leading to the Good Friday Agreement. She is currently International President of the Association of European Journalists. Eileen sits on the board of St. Vincent’s Hospital, Fairview, Dublin and is a member of the See Change communications advisory committee.

Dr Kevin Kilbride, General Adult Consultant Psychiatrist
Homelessness and Mental Health: Policy Issues- The CPsychI Position Paper and A Vision for Change
Dr Kevin Kilbride, General Adult Consultant Psychiatrist
10.30 - 10.45
Multi-Disciplinary Team Working in a Specialist Mental Health Service for the Homeless
Ms Leona Boland, Occupational Therapist and Dr Frank Hynes, Community Mental Health Nurse

Programme
The College thanks all speakers for their participation and input, particularly the multi-disciplinary committee who devised the programme:

Dr Joanne Fenton (CPsychI)
Dr Anne Jeffers (CPsychI)
Dr Ruth Loane (CPsychI)
Dr Kevin Kilbride (CPsychI)
Ms Andrea Ryder (CpsychI)
Ms Miriam Silke (CPsychI)
Mr Mike Allen (Focus Ireland)
Ms Catherine Maher (Focus Ireland)
Ms Kerry Anthony (Depaul Ireland)
Mr JP Swain (HSE)
Mr Francis Hynes (HSE)

Many thanks to Ms Eileen Dunne for chairing discussion throughout the day.