

Press Statement – 13th January 2017

College of Psychiatrists Welcomes New Officers

New President and Vice President for College of Psychiatrists of Ireland

The College of Psychiatrists of Ireland has elected Dr John Hillery, former President of the Medical Council, as its new President to serve until 2020. Dr Hillery replaces Dr Ruth Loane as President.

Thanking his predecessor and the membership Dr Hillery said,

"The College of Psychiatrists is a young College that in a short time, in a challenging financial and philosophical environment, has successfully introduced practical innovation to the training and education of Psychiatrists in Ireland. I am thankful to my predecessors for the leadership they have shown in this regard.

I look forward to working with colleagues and other stakeholders, especially patients and their relatives, to support Psychiatrists in Ireland, both trainees and specialists, in their aim to deliver the best possible treatment to people with mental illness in what remains a challenging environment for health professionals, patients and carers".

Dr William Flannery has been elected as Vice-President for the next three years.

Dr Flannery has played a major role in the education and training of Psychiatrists as Chair of the College's Postgraduate Training Committee since 2013. He is also a Consultant Psychiatrist in the Addiction Services. Dr Flannery said that,

"The College mission is to promote excellence in psychiatry. We are doctors specialised in mental illness and I believe our College is delivering on this promise through training those who want it, caring for those who need it and supporting those who want best practice for mental illness. I am delighted as the new Vice President to be able to do my part in delivering on our mission."

The College Council & Management committees extend their appreciation to the outgoing officers - Dr Ruth Loane (President) & Dr John Tobin (Vice President), Dr Miriam Kennedy (Director, Professional Competence) and Dr John Hillery (Director, Communication and Public Education) – for their commitment, vision and hard work to maintain and drive the College forward in its mission to promote excellence in the practice of psychiatry.

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Notes for the Editor:



The College of Psychiatrists of Ireland formed in 2009 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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