



The College of Psychiatry of Ireland  
*Coláiste Siciatrachta na hÉireann*

## Press Statement 04 April 2012

### College welcome Mental Health Commission Annual Report but call for Directorate & Realistic National Debate on Mental Health Services

The College of Psychiatry welcome the Mental Health Commission Annual Report published today and the improvements and cultural shift observed over the past five years in mental health services noted in the report.

*It is encouraging to officially hear of positive achievements and attitude change in our services” commented Dr Anne Jeffers, Director of the College External Affairs & Policy “but although many services have changed their approach from management of patients’ symptoms to be more recovery focussed this is not evenly spread throughout the country.*

Continuing Dr Jeffers said *“The question needs to be asked - can the HSE resource multidisciplinary teams required to move to a Recovery focussed service nationwide. The College would welcome a national debate on the issue of the funding of mental health services.”*

The College once again calls for the immediate appointment of a Directorate for mental health services with budgetary responsibility and accountability. This would ensure services are developed & allocated the necessary resources in an equitable manner throughout the country. But most importantly this change will allow people engaging with the services to have choice, to get back to leading a fuller life and gain a more flexible Recovery oriented approach to their mental health issues.

Ends

Contact:

Andrea Ryder

Communications Manager

External Affairs & Policy

5 Herbert Street, Dublin 2

Direct Tel: 01 634 4374

College Tel: 01- 661 8450 Fax: 01 - 662 9677

email: [andrea@irishpsychiatry.ie](mailto:andrea@irishpsychiatry.ie)

web: [www.irishpsychiatry.ie](http://www.irishpsychiatry.ie)