



Monday 17th September 2018

Press statement

President of the College of Psychiatrists, Dr John Hillery, joins international and national health professionals to address delegates today at '**Changing Direction: Augmenting Mental Health Solutions**' conference being hosted by Minister Jim Daly. The main aim of conference is to explore the potential utilisation of digital technologies in Irish Mental Health Services.

Supportive of potential initiatives to improve and offer different but complimentary mental health supports and services to patients Dr Hillery notes caution,

“Mental health Services are under stress due to lack of resources including problems with staffing. The Minister is to be congratulated for prompting discussion on potential ways to answer certain service needs using digital technology.”

*However while the College is going to take an active role in exploring the usefulness of new technologies in augmenting clinical practice with its members and others, **no matter what technologies are available we still must ensure that patients have access to fully trained specialists and the broad variety of therapeutic supports and stepped approaches** that modern psychiatric practice expects. This requires investment and information on which to base appropriate use of that investment. These must be a priority.”*

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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.*