



“ADDITIONAL FUNDING MUST PUT MENTAL HEALTH AT THE CORE OF OUR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE SYSTEM”

The Royal College of Psychiatrists in Northern Ireland [RCPsych in NI] has welcomed the additional £10 million, per year over five years, to support Mental Health provision as part of the “Confidence and Supply Agreement” between the Conservative and Democratic Unionist Parties.

Speaking at the Royal College of Psychiatrists Annual International Congress in Edinburgh, Dr Gerry Lynch, Chair of RCPsych in NI said:

“Any additional funding for mental health services in Northern Ireland is to be welcomed, but it is vital that such money provides tangible benefits to adults and children with mental health and learning disability needs. It is imperative that this funding is protected and targeted specifically at mental health services and projects.

The priorities for mental health in Northern Ireland are clearly set out within our Manifesto for the Assembly elections, and within the ‘Building on Progress: Achieving Parity for Mental Health in NI’ [The ‘Crisp Report’] of June 2016.

RCPsych in NI welcomes also the additional funding which has been allocated within this agreement to transform the Health and Social Care Service in Northern Ireland and to address the immediate pressures in health and education. However, we urge all parties to work to deliver parity of esteem for mental health and physical health needs.”

ENDS.

Dr Lynch was speaking at the Royal College’s Annual International Congress which is taking place in Edinburgh. For further information, please contact Thomas McKeever, Policy Administrator, on 02890 278793.

Notes for Editors:

The ‘Five Asks’ for Mental Health in NI as set out within RCPsych in NI’s Assembly Manifesto were:

- *The appointment of a Champion for Mental Health, tasked with developing modern and safe mental health services that promote positive mental health*
- *Insist on respect and dignity of people with mental illness and learning disability by bringing the process of mental capacity legislative reform to a comprehensive conclusion*
- *Fund the physical health needs of people with mental illness and learning disability*
- *Ensure that all our citizens who are vulnerable to severe mental illness, and their carers are offered ongoing multidisciplinary evidence-based care*
- *The introduction of a minimum price for alcohol of 50p per unit.*

‘Building on Progress: Achieving Parity for Mental Health in NI’ [The ‘Crisp Report’]
http://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/pdf/Building_on_Progress_-_CAAPC_Report_NI_June_2016.pdf