



Royal College to highlight current under provision of specialist maternal mental health care across Northern Ireland

The Royal College of Psychiatrists will host a major seminar in Malone House, Belfast, this coming Friday (13 April) which will highlight the current under-provision of perinatal mental health services in Northern Ireland.

The event will consider the need for significant investment in specialist maternal mental health care across Northern Ireland, given that such services are not provided for within four of the five local Trusts, while only a limited service is available in Belfast.

The seminar will be addressed by a range of internationally-renowned speakers, including Dr Roch Cantwell and Dr Ian Jones, with the morning session considering perinatal issues within their wider UK context, while the afternoon session will focus on perinatal issues from a Northern Ireland perspective.

Speaking on behalf of the Royal College in Northern Ireland, Chair and Vice-President, Dr Gerry Lynch, said:

"This is a timely event and will serve to draw attention to the lack of specialist maternal mental health care. One of the key aspects of the day will be the presentation of the findings of a new study which has examined the levels of self-reported mental disorders associated with pregnancy in Northern Ireland. These findings will be particularly significant within the context of the current provision of specialist maternal health care across the region."

ENDS

The Seminar will take place in Malone House, Belfast, on Friday, 13 April commencing at 9:30am. Dr Janine Lynch, joint chair of RCPsych in NI's Perinatal Faculty will be available for interview prior to and at the event.

For further details, please contact Thomas McKeever on Thomas.mckeever@rcpsych or by phoning the College directly on 02890 278793