



Royal College of Psychiatrists to launch important paper relevant to Alcohol Misuse

The Royal College of Psychiatrists will launch a paper calling for treatment, not just care, of those who suffer from Alcohol-Related Brain Damage (ARBD) in Northern Ireland at a major Conference in Europa Hotel, Belfast, this coming Thursday (26 April).

The College is calling for a designated ARBD multidisciplinary team in each of the 5 Trusts, which would have access to an assessment unit. Currently there are several facilities with ARBD units but no standard approach is taken in Northern Ireland.

Chief Medical Officer Dr Michael McBride, who wrote the Foreword to the Report said:

"This report highlights an issue many people will never just think about – the harm alcohol misuse can have on their brain. The report aligns with 'Health and Wellbeing 2026: Delivering Together' and provides hope. With early identification, appropriate treatment and support, up to 75% can and do begin to recover."

Authors Dr Vanessa Craig and Dr Joy Watson commented:

"The aim of this report, which is Northern Ireland specific, is to make a case for local service development for ARBD, ensuring that appropriate treatment is provided for our citizens".

Chair of the Royal College of Psychiatrists in Northern Ireland Dr Gerry Lynch, said:

"Patients with ARBD in many cases have found themselves placed inappropriately in dementia care homes. This has been shown to be detrimental to recovery for the condition. Patients with ARBD require active treatment, rather than just care. In a care-type environment, they may not ever regain skills or recover. Their human rights need to be respected and protected." ENDS

The Launch will take place in the Europa Hotel, Belfast on Thursday 26 April commencing at 9.20am. Dr Gerry Lynch and the Authors 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