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**media release 0121 331 6738**

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## IRISH MENTAL HEALTH IN BIRMINGHAM: IMPLICATIONS FOR HEALTH SERVICE PROVISION AND PRACTICE EVENT

- **Friday 27th June 2008**
- **9.00 am – 1.00pm (followed by lunch)**
- **City Inn, 1 Brunswick Square, Brindleyplace, Birmingham B1 2HW**

The event will present two reports that are the result of a project launched in January 2007 looking into Irish people's views and experiences of mental health services in Birmingham. The research has been carried out to gain an understanding of the Irish communities to promote inclusion and equality and provide outreach to those in need.

The Lord Mayor of Birmingham will be attending, along with representatives from various health organisations such as the Department of Health.

The programme for the day is:

- 9.00 Welcome
- 09.15 Press Photography
- 09.30 Welcome – Bridie Nugent (Irish Welfare & Information Centre)
- 09.40 Open – Lord Mayor of Birmingham
- 09.45 Report 1 – Paula McGee (Birmingham City University), Claire Baxter and Bernadette Lynch (Irish service users)
- 10.30 Refreshment break
- 11.00 Report 2 – Alia Syed (University of Central Lancashire), Tony Merry (Midland Heart), Mike Rochfort & Ranjit Senghera (Care Services Improvement Partnership (West Mids))
- 11.45 Response to the reports – Mary Tilki (Federation of Irish Societies)
- 12.00 Response to the reports – Cherry Dale (South Birmingham PCT)
- 12.15 Response to the reports – Ranjit Senghera (CSIP West Midlands)
- 12.30 Message from Liam Byrne MP – Conor McGinn (Federation of Irish Societies)
- 12.40 Overview/close – Bridie Nugent (IWIC)
- 13.00 Lunch/Close

The first report, *Irish Mental Health in Birmingham: What is appropriate and culturally-competent primary care?*, has covered a wide spectrum of Irish mental health in general. It has been a partnership project between Birmingham City University's Centre for Community Mental Health and the Birmingham Irish Welfare and Information Centre, the Federation of Irish Societies (FIS), Immigrant Counselling and Psychotherapy (ICAP), the Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health Trust (BSMHT), and Balsall Heath Health Centre.

The second report *The Mental Health of Older Irish Adults project* has focused on older Irish adults living in Birmingham. This is a partnership project between Birmingham Irish Welfare and Information Centre in partnership with Care Services Improvement Partnership, Immigrant Counselling & Psychotherapy, Midland Heart and the University of Central Lancashire.

It is hoped that both pieces of research will influence current mental health service provision by looking at how services are provided and how people access them and how they could be improved to ensure those who are in need feel comfortable and confident in accessing services. It is hoped it will also encourage wider and more valuable engagement between statutory and voluntary services, with each sector bringing their expertise and knowledge together; to work in partnership to meet the mental health needs of the Irish community.

To find out more about the event, please contact Dawn McCarrick at Birmingham City University Centre for Community Mental Health 0121 331 7151 or email [Dawn.McCarrick@bcu.ac.uk](mailto:Dawn.McCarrick@bcu.ac.uk)

## **About Birmingham City University**

More than 24,000 students currently study at Birmingham City University's seven faculties.

**Birmingham Institute of Art and Design** is the largest centre for design and media education outside London and rated as one of the top ten UK Art and Design institutions.

**Birmingham Conservatoire**, a specialised music college of international stature, trains musicians to the highest standard in performance and composition while **Birmingham School of Acting** is one of the UK's leading vocational drama training schools.

The **Business School** is a key regional centre which, with 4,000 students, is one of the largest business schools in the UK.

The **Faculty of Education** trains teachers and related professionals at levels from foundation degrees to PhD.

The **Faculty for Health** is one of the largest centres for non-medical health education and includes the Defence School of Health Care Studies, which trains military nurses and professionals.

The **Faculty of Law, Humanities, Development and Society** has courses in law, social and political studies, equipping students for a range of professional careers.

The **Technology Innovation Centre (tic)** offering cutting-edge courses in computer technology, multimedia and engineering at Millennium Point.

### **For more information contact:**

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