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History of IICP

IICP College has offered professional and academic training in counselling and psychotherapy since 2003. Nineteen years later, the college has over 800 learners across QQI, Professional Body and Professional CPD programmes. Encouraged and supported by friends and colleagues such as Pdraig O'Morain and Pat Jennings, Dr Marcella Finnerty created a training programme and low-cost counselling service in the heart of Tallaght. The area is a large suburb of Dublin, made up of a wide variety of social and economic groups. While counselling and psychotherapy are often thought of as processes that happen between two individuals in a therapy room, IICP placed itself in a broader context from the start.

The first team of IICP lecturers, joined and supported by Marcella, aimed to ensure counsellors were educated about the vital need for integration and multiculturalism in counselling and psychotherapeutic practices, and that those in our society who are marginalised have access to low-cost professional mental health. Since the beginning, IICP College had been inspiring a generation of Counselling Practitioners to practice through integration and with multicultural awareness, teach democratically, learn as a way of life, and evolve through a pluralistic philosophy.

The College offers a range of QQI validated and professionally accredited programmes, at undergraduate and postgraduate levels. As part of its Strategic Journey between 2018 and-2020, IICP College enhanced its research informed learning environment, grew undergraduate and postgraduate enrolments, and enhanced access and transfer routes into its programmes. This Strategic Plan continues to build on these achievements while remaining grounded in our Mission and Values.

The maintenance of high quality, transformative education and training programmes across the diverse programme offerings is achieved through the dedication of the first-class faculty, and the Tutors and Teaching Assistants who support them. IICP College is invested in offering Continuing Professional Development to existing and future faculty members and to those from other professions and disciplines who may benefit from this programme.

Mission Statement

IICP aims to provide training and education to the wider community of professionals and volunteers working in the caring professions. This is achieved through offering opportunities to learners, both formally and informally, that enhance personal, professional, academic and intellectual development through comprehensive training and education within the context of mental health. To achieve this aim, IICP offers comprehensive programmes for those who wish to pursue professional and academic accreditation in the mental health services. This encompasses a multicultural and pluralistic approach with a core philosophical framework reflecting the principles and practices of an integrated method of therapy.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Five Year Strategic Plan 2021-2026

This five-year strategic plan was created in 2021, following a review of our previous plan. It will continue until December 31st, 2026. This strategic plan sets out the work of the College for that timeframe. Our aim is to achieve the goals outlined here in the next five years.

Our Core Values: Principles of our Strategic Plan

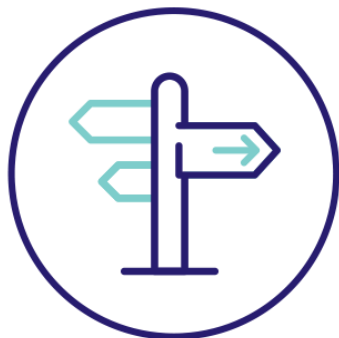


SUPPORTIVE: By your side

We support our students every step of the way through their education in a welcoming and caring environment.

INTEGRITY: Do the right thing

We value integrity and are committed to delivering the highest education standards in a just and ethical environment.



FLEXIBILITY: Let's find a way

We are flexible to individual student needs and endeavour to find a solution to their educational requirements.

EXCELLENCE: Reach new heights

We continually strive to deliver 'best in class' education in a highly professional environment. Our Faculty and team are committed to offering students the most up-to-date learning.



Our Vision: Drivers of the Strategic Plan

Learners are at the core of IICP College training and education. The values of IICP College reflect our learner-centeredness and we articulate our values in terms of our commitments to learners. The vision of education and training of IICP College is of quality, learner-centred, accessible, responsive, and transformative.

We act to achieve our vision in the following ways:

A quality education: Providing recognised and accredited Professional Education and Training, that meet the standards of Professional and Statutory bodies.

An education that is accessible: Widening participation and providing flexible education opportunities and progression pathways to address issues of access for those most affected by economic and social difficulties.

An education that is learner-centred: Capturing and acting on feedback from learners, understanding what matters to them, and acting to enhance their learning experience.

An education that is responsive: Responding to changes arising from professional, educational, health, social, and economic contexts.

An education that is transformative: Enriching graduate attributes so as to equip them with a balance of academic, professional and essential generic skills to help them realise their full potential as professional practitioners, and as members of society.

Our Strategic Plan

This plan provides strategic direction for IICP College through articulating a broad set of goals critical to the evolution of our College, and identifying the actionable items that provide targets for activity areas that are intended to be the means of achieving strategic objectives. This is a dynamic vision that is open to change as the College develops, and as the wider context of professional development in the Health and Social care evolves. This plan is intended to guide us, focus our priorities, and inspire us to move forward, while adapting to the changing context in which the College operates.

Strategic Areas, Goals and Activities 2021-2026

The headings - Strategic Areas - encompass the areas which the College will monitor on a continuing basis during the lifetime of this plan. These are the **foundation stones** of IICP College strategy, creating structure from which we can implement our mission and values.

For each Strategic Area, a series of Goals are identified to help us deliver our strategy. These are concrete steps towards achievement in the Strategic Area.

Our Priority Strategic Areas

Figure 1. Strategic Areas



Our Priority Strategic Goals

Strategic Area No. 1. Enhance the College's portfolio of Professional Accreditation and Academic Validation programmes.

A core strategic commitment of IICP College is to develop and extend our portfolio of validated and accredited programmes.

Key Strategic Goals in this area.

- I. Develop a College-wide strategy for programmes and awards that fosters the recognition of counselling and psychotherapy as scientifically based, research-informed, independent professions.
- II. Enhance recognition of IICP College's standing in academic and professional communities through engagement with a range of quality assurance recognition processes.
- III. Prepare the College and its programmes for the transition to statutory recognition by CORU of the titles of Counsellor and Psychotherapist.

Strategic Area No. 2: Teaching and Learning

A core strategic commitment of IICP College is to provide cutting edge, nationally and internationally recognised, education and training programmes founded on academic excellence, research-mindedness, and critical and ethical engagement.

Key Strategic Goals in this area.

- I. Consolidate and promote research which is driven by the needs of Counselling and Psychotherapy.
- II. Continuously develop structures and policies which encourage staff and students to be active in research.
- III. Incorporate within programmes opportunities for learners to develop appropriate generic skills including communication, information literacy, digital literacy, qualitative and quantitative analysis and cross-cultural awareness as well as professional skills.
- IV. Enhance professional diplomas and Continuous Professional Development training.
- V. Provide space and time for reflection and critical analysis of the social and cultural environment.
- VI. Enhance organisational supports that foster academic excellence, integrity and creativity throughout the College community.