

**Benefit gig to raise money for PsyCare; Ireland's festival welfare service**

Non-profit festival welfare service, PsyCare Ireland, is hosting a benefit concert in WigWam, Dublin, at 7 pm on Thursday, the 18th of May. The event will feature a fantastic lineup of live acts. Dublin electronic duo Adult Store are the main headliner, and support comes from DJs Falx and OneCanChan. Tickets go on sale at 8 pm Monday the 17th of April and cost €15, or €10 (concession).

All proceeds go to fund PsyCare Ireland, a volunteer-led organisation that provides psychological care and education at Irish festivals and events. As well as music and dancing, PsyCare committee members will give a short talk about the service and announce festival plans for 2023. Harm reduction information will be available throughout the night, as well as psychological care, should anyone need it. Raffle prizes include tickets to Irish festivals, including Beyond the Pale, Another Love Story, and Fuinneamh and entry to the venues Pygmalion, Centre Point and Tengu.

PsyCare Ireland provides 24-hour welfare services for festival attendees in psychological difficulty and specialist substance crisis intervention to those affected by drugs and/or alcohol. PsyCare Ireland also provides substance harm reduction information to the public at Irish events.

PsyCare Ireland was established in 2021 by a passionate team of experienced professionals and festival goers. The core team includes nurses, doctors and psychotherapists. They saw a need to provide a peer-to-peer welfare service to Irish festival-goers and were inspired by similar successful projects such as PsyCare UK and Kosmicare in Portugal.

Last year PsyCare Ireland provided support at five festivals, including Day of the Dead, Fuinneamh and Another Love Story. They also hosted a harm reduction workshop at Electric Picnic. They believe that mental health services at festivals can be lifesaving. This year, they are expanding their service to reach more festivals and are training a hundred new volunteers.

PsyCare Ireland founding members include Dr Kathryn Ledden, a medical doctor working in psychiatry, and her brother Michael Ledden, a psychotherapist.

Dr Kathryn Ledden said: "This benefit gig will bring together like-minded individuals who want to see a change in how we approach mental health and substance use at live music events. All proceeds will go towards PsyCare Ireland's work supporting festival-goers in need."

Psychotherapist Michael Ledden said: “This event is for anyone who loves the music and concert scene in Ireland and wants to learn more about how we can keep people psychologically well and assist them in making safer choices around substance use.”

**Tickets can be purchased on Eventbrite:**

**<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/psycare-ireland-fundraiser-gig-meet-and-greet-tickets-598488002727>**

7 pm-11 pm, Thursday, 18th of May.

WigWam, 54 Middle Abbey St, Dublin 1

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Notes for editors:

Over a million people attend Irish music festivals every year. In 2021, a HSE survey found that 94.2% of 1,193 respondents said they had used drugs at festivals, with many reporting polydrug use and mixing drugs and alcohol.

PsyCare Ireland is a winner of the Rethink Ireland start your own Social Enterprise Competition 2023.

PsyCare Ireland is Shortlisted for Best Social Enterprise in Ireland at the 2023 All Ireland Community and Council Awards (LAMA).