



IASW

Irish Association of Social Workers
Cumann na hÉireann um Oibríthe Sóisialta

PRESS RELEASE dated 20th May 2010 – For immediate release.

Social Workers saddened and shocked by Daniel McAnaspie's death, demand allocated social workers for all children in need of social work services and the full resourcing of children and family services social work teams.

Recent media reporting and his family's calls for a public inquiry into Daniel McAnaspie's care and his death highlighted that Daniel was in the care of the HSE when he died. Declan Coogan, spokesperson for the Irish Association of Social Workers (IASW) said "social workers are saddened and shocked by Daniel's death and we would like to offer our sympathies to his family".

He further added that all children in the care of the state should be entitled to the highest level of care. "In the light especially of the first anniversary of the publication of the Ryan Report, the needs of children in care are best served by every child having an allocated social worker" Coogan said, noting that a HSE report published last November revealed that one in five of the more than 5,000 children in care do not have an allocated social worker. "This means that for too many children in care – 20%– there is no allocated social worker who is responsible for their care on behalf of the state" he said "and no one to review their care, to build a positive relationship with them and their carers, no one to oversee their needs and intervention".

Coogan stated that the Irish Association of Social Workers calls on the government and the HSE to act immediately to fully resource children and family social work teams so that each child in care has an allocated social worker and every child and family referred to social work teams can receive preventative and supportive social work intervention at the time that such responses are most needed.

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