

Following Prime Time programme, social workers demand allocated social workers for every child in need, the full resourcing of children and families social work teams and early intervention and support for families.

Press Release from the Irish Association of Social Workers (IASW) Dated 26th May 2010.

Last night's Prime Time Programme on RTE One highlighted the needs of children in care. Declan Coogan, spokesperson for the Irish Association of Social Workers (IASW) stated "social workers remain concerned at the continuing failure of the HSE to allocate social workers to every child in care and to offer social work support to all families in need when difficulties begin to arise". Declan Coogan stated that HSE figures last year indicated that 20% of children in care do not have an allocated social worker. He added that research demonstrates that early intervention by social work and other support services with families in need keeps families together and makes it most likely that more entrenched problems will not emerge.

Coogan stated that social workers welcome the RTE One's Prime Time programme as it draws the attention of the public to the difficulties faced by children with complex difficulties in difficult circumstances. He also drew attention to the fact that many social workers work together with families and with other professionals to ensure good outcomes for many children and families.

"One of the clear implications of the Prime Time programme is that the lack of an allocated social worker and the lack of early intervention services for every single child in care is not acceptable" Coogan added.

The Irish Association of Social Workers calls on the government and the HSE to act immediately to allocate a social worker to every child in care and to provide the appropriate support services for children in need.

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