

***Press Release from the Irish Association of Social Workers (IASW)
Dated 9th November 2009***

Social Workers call for failures highlighted by the Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) in the areas of foster carer assessments and children's residential centre staff vetting be investigated and addressed.

The Irish Association of Social Workers (IASW) plan to raise the recent failures in child care services with the HSE and ask why the appropriate policy and procedures for assessing foster carers and vetting child care staff working in children's residential centres have not been followed. Frank Browne spokesperson for IASW says that it is an accepted fact that there are insufficient social workers and child care resources generally within HSE children's services and he says social workers regularly express to the professional body their concerns that many children in care do not have an allocated social worker and that numerous foster carers remain on waiting lists for an assessment of their suitability, Mr Browne adds that current staffing resources mean that social work departments cannot meet the demand for undertaking these important assessments in a timely manner and also meet their other child protection responsibilities.

Mr Browne states that IASW is disappointed that HIQA also found that young people were being looked after in less than desirable conditions, especially following the recent Ryan report and the stated intention by the Minister Andrews that this should never happen again.

Contact: - Frank Browne Communications Co-ordinator
The Irish Association of Social Workers (IASW)
Ph. 087-2888910
Email. brownefrank1@hotmail.com
www.iasw.ie