

- ◆ Influencing political, administrative and legislative changes through relevant proposals and submissions to government bodies.
- ◆ Participation in research, continuous professional development, education and training.
- ◆ Promoting and facilitating inclusion/integration of people with disabilities within the wider community.

### Social Work Values

- ◆ Social Work values are based on respect for the equality, worth, dignity and self determination of all people.
- ◆ Social Work practice focuses on meeting needs, developing potential and promoting human rights.
- ◆ Social Workers promote social inclusion, non-judgemental practices and maintain confidentiality within their professional relationships.
- ◆ Social Workers promote intercultural and anti racist practices
- ◆ Social work values are embodied in the professions national and international codes of ethics as laid down by the Irish Association of Social Workers and the International Federation of Social Workers.

Produced by Social Workers  
in Disabilities  
A Special Interest Group of:



IASW

Irish Association of Social Workers  
Cumann na hÉireann um Oibrithe Sóisialta

[www.iasw.ie](http://www.iasw.ie)

St. Andrews Resource Centre  
114-116 Pearse Street, Dublin 2.  
Tel: 353-1-6774838



IASW

Irish Association of Social Workers  
Cumann na hÉireann um Oibrithe Sóisialta

# Social Work in Disability

## The Role of Social Work in DISABILITY SERVICES

The aim of the social worker is to work in partnership with service users, families, carers, staff and service providers to identify needs, to facilitate emotional and practical support, and empower service users and their families to enhance their quality of life.

Professional social work is focused on problem solving and change management. Social Workers utilise a variety of skills, techniques and activities consistent with a holistic focus on persons and their environment.

*These skills are applied in the following ways:*

### Assessment

- ◆ The Social Worker takes family history, assessing the supports, resources, strengths, needs and the social networks of the service user and his/her family.
- ◆ The Social Work assessment focuses on people's emotional, social, physical and economic well-being.
- ◆ The information from the assessment is used to identify appropriate areas of intervention.
- ◆ A plan for the future Social Work intervention is developed in partnership with service users, their families and other professionals.

### Areas of social work intervention

Social Work bases its interventions on a systematic body of evidence – based knowledge and practice.

- ◆ The primary area of Social Work intervention is therapeutic work. Different therapeutic methods can be used i.e. Casework, Meditation, Counselling Group Work, Crisis Intervention, Family Therapy, Solution focused Brief Therapy and Bereavement Work.
- ◆ Central to the role of Social Work is developing and maintaining relationships with service users and their families.
- ◆ Social Work involves seeking, developing and delivering appropriate services to service users and their families/carers.
- ◆ Participation in Person-Centred Plans with service users their families and other team members.
- ◆ Administration and report writing.
- ◆ Referral to and liaising with other relevant internal and external services and resources.
- ◆ Maintaining communication and networking with relevant people and services.

- ◆ Advocacy and empowerment.
- ◆ Protection and welfare work.
- ◆ Empowering people to access information/service around entitlements benefits and legislation.
- ◆ Organising/Accessing residential and family based respite schemes and a range of home support services.
- ◆ Facilitating access to Residential Care and Independent Living.

### Other Areas of Social Work Involment

- ◆ Identifying gaps in current provision and seeing or developing new services.
- ◆ Highlighting inequality and working to bring about change in social policy, agency policy and societal attitudes.
- ◆ Promotion of Equal Opportunities and non-discriminatory practices.
- ◆ Developing and maintaining best practice in line with our professional association, the Irish Association of Social Workers, and with the international standards of the International Federation of Social Workers