Meetings:
Since the last AGM, the Primary Care Social Work Special Interest Group has met twice: November 2016 and February 2017. The next two SIG meetings are scheduled for May 2017 and August 2017. There was a CPD element at February meeting with a presentation by Ballymun Community Law and Mediation Centre on mediation and mediation services offered. A CPD element will also be incorporated into May meeting with Karen Heavey from Trippe P: Positive Parenting Programmes presenting to the group. We plan on also having a CPD element to the August meeting. Similar to previous years, the venue for SIG Meetings has changed for each meeting to ensure they are easily accessible for as many social workers as possible. The SIG Committee is in place since 26/10/16. We have met twice since the last AGM in November and February. Further SIG Committee Meetings are scheduled for May and August 2017 following the SIG meeting. The Chair of the Primary Care SIG Committee has attended all IASW Council meetings and provided written reports on work undertaken since the current Committee was established.

Work undertaken by the Primary Care Social Work Special Interest Group during the 2016/2017 Committee Period:

Regional Groups
Following review of the poor take up of regional groups, the SIG Committee has made the decision to put this initiative on hold, to be reviewed in the future should demand change.

The Primary Care Social Work Business Case “Social Work in Primary Care Teams: The Added Value - A Business Case”.
This document was successfully brought to the attention of the National Primary Care Operations Office for consideration by previous committees and the IASW. On 06/12/16 the current chair of the SIG and Frank Browne, Chair of the IASW, met with Brian Murphy and Barbara Bolger from the HSE and Brigid O’Donovan a representative of the HSE Primary Care Social Work Managers Group. The chair and Frank Browne raised a number of pre-agreed issues and concerns with the HSE seeking immediate resolution. They included ensuring all Primary Care Social Workers are in receipt of supervision from an appropriate practitioner, the need for a national management / governance structure and recruitment. We await a written response from the HSE to this meeting.

Online Forum:
Continued promotion of use of the online forum set up on the HSE intranet for Primary Care Social Workers to discuss practice issues.

SIG Participation on IASW Working Groups:
The Primary Care Special Interest Group is now represented on two other SIGs - Practitioner Research and Social Workers and Migration. We also have members attending two working groups - SWID Group in the North West and Erosion of the Social Work Role.

National Primary Care Social Work Documents:
Following the successful work of a sub group of the SIG in conjunction with the Primary Care Social Work Managers Group two national information leaflets for use by Primary Care Social Workers, have been drawn up, agreed and signed off by each CHO. They are at various stages of print in each CHO and will be in national circulation in the coming weeks.
SAGE
Following the IASW’s recent meeting with SAGE, the SIG has received mixed review from Primary Care Social Workers nationally who have worked with SAGE. We have therefore sought feedback from all Primary Care Social Workers nationally on their experiences of working with SAGE. This information is being collated and will be provided to the IASW for follow up in the coming weeks.

Weekly E-mail Communication with SIG Members:
Information e-mails from the IASW/HSE and other relevant community groups/services are collated and circulated to SIG Members on a weekly basis via the SIG Committee Secretary.

Delivery of an Annual Conference
The 2016 Primary Care Social Work Special Interest Group Annual Conference took place in conjunction with SWID on 21/10/16. The title of the Conference was “Working Together to Navigate Change” and was the first joint conference of the two SIG’s. It had speakers from both Health and Social Care services working with both primary care and disability social workers, and was very well attended.

The topics for the conference included: End of Life Care, Working with Carers, Working with Service Users from Diverse / Multicultural Backgrounds, Working to Support Individuals with Cognitive Impairment, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Intellectual Disability, Relationship Based Practise and Minding the Social Worker.

Future Plans:
- Continue to provide a supportive venue for Social Workers in Primary Care to: discuss and respond to issues impacting on Social Work practice in Primary Care; share experiences and knowledge; engage in CPD; promote an understanding of the role and practice of Social Work in Primary Care amongst all stakeholders; contribute to the development of Social Work in Primary Care in Ireland at macro and micro level.
- Continue to encourage membership of the IASW.
- Continue to co-work with the Primary Care Social Work Managers Group on issues of mutual concern.
- Continue our review of the Terms of Reference and working documents of the Primary Care Social Work SIG.
- Continue to update the database of SIG Members.
- Hold an annual conference is September. Planning is underway and a sub-group has been established.