Meetings:
Since the last AGM, the Primary Care Social Work Special Interest Group has met twice: November 2015 and February 2016. The next two SIG meetings are scheduled for June 2016 and November 2016. There was a CPD element at the November 2015 meeting which was a presentation by Clodagh O’Sullivan, CNS at St. Vincent’s Hospital on Alcohol Misuse in Adults. A CPD element will also be incorporated into the June 2016 meeting. Donal O’Malley Chair of the IASW attended the February SIG meeting to present the February SIG meeting to present on the association’s Strategic & Business Plan.

The purpose of the SIG Meetings is to provide members with an opportunity to discuss and respond to issues impacting on Social Work practice in Primary Care; share experiences and knowledge; and engage in CPD. The venue for SIG Meetings is changed for each meeting to afford Social Workers who cannot travel to attend meetings and have greater involvement.

The SIG Committee, as outlined above, has met three times since the last AGM: October 2015, January 2016, and April 2016. Further SIG Committee Meetings are scheduled for July and October 2016. A SIG Committee member 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 2015/2016 Committee Period:

Supporting the Development of Regional Groups
The Non-Executive Officers took the lead on supporting the development of regional groups and exploring the use of teleconference as a mechanism to participate in SIG Meetings. This piece of work is ongoing and progress will be reviewed in autumn 2016.

Follow up regarding the Primary Care Social Work Business Case
The Primary Care Social Work SIG completed a business case in April 2015 titled “Social Work in Primary Care Teams: The Added Value - A Business Case”. The purpose of this document is to clearly explain the value social work brings to Primary Care and makes recommendations regarding an appropriate governance structure for Primary Care Social Work nationally. This document was sent to John Hennessy, HSE in 2015 and has been sent to him again in 2016 requesting that it be brought to the attention of the National Primary Care Operations Office for consideration.

Online Forum:
Continued 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 was represented by members on two working groups set up by the IASW – “Erosion of the Social Work role” and examining the impact of SAGE Advocacy Service on social work roles.

National Primary Care Social Work Documents:
We are reviewing all research that has contributed to our role document over the past 6 years in order to develop a practice document and a complimentary suite of documents which will be compiled of: an
information leaflet, role document and practice document. A sub group of the SIG has been established to develop two national information leaflets for use by Primary Care Social Workers, one for Service Users and one for professionals. The leaflets have been forwarded to a newly established Principal Social Workers in Primary Care Group (HSE group) to have these leaflets approved as HSE leaflets, signed off by each CHO and printed by HSE print services.

**Safeguarding Vulnerable Persons at Risk of Abuse National Policy & Procedures**

The SIG has raised issues with and provided feedback to the IASW regarding the new Safeguarding Vulnerable Persons at Risk of Abuse Policy, its implementation and impact on the delivery of Primary Care Social Work Services.

**Weekly E-mail Communication with SIG Members:**

Information e-mails from the IASW are collated and circulated to SIG Members on a weekly basis via the SIG Committee Secretary.

**Delivery of an Annual Conference**

The 2015 Primary Care Social Work Special Interest Group Annual Conference took place on 2nd October 2015. The title of the Conference was “Primary Care: The Added Value”. The Conference had both academic speakers from International and Irish third level schools and past and present Primary Care Social Workers and was very well attended. The topics for the conference included: *Evidence Based Practice; Ethical Practice in Social Work; Social Work in a Healthy Ireland; Advocacy in Social Work; Safer Better Healthcare; and Intervening Briefly, Motivational interviewing.*

**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.
- Encourage membership of the IASW.
- Review the Terms of Reference and working documents of the Primary Care Social Work SIG.
- Update the database of SIG Members during summer 2016.
- Hold a joint annual conference with SWID and SIGA SIGs in October 2016. Planning is underway and we are considering topics that we feel will be of interest to Social Workers across care groups. At present the topics being explored include working with carers who have an Intellectual Disability or Mental Health concern, thinking ahead in planning end of life care, safeguarding, working with Service Users from multi-cultural backgrounds, the Capacity Act in practice and self-care on MDTs.
- Hold an AGM in October 2016.
- Publish a paper regarding the development of the Primary Care Social Work Service, 2001 – 2016.