

**2016-
2017**

**Irish Association of Social Workers
Annual Report**

114-116 Pearse Street, Dublin 2, Ireland
Tel: +353-(0)1-6774838
Email: office@iasw.ie
Website: www.iasw.ie

Representing Social Work in Ireland since 1971
A Member of the International Federation of Social Workers

Table of Contents:

IASW Board of Directors and Council	3
-------------------------------------	---

Board Reports:

Chair Report – Frank Browne	4
Company Secretary – Billie Anne McCauley	5
Treasurer – Aine McGuirk	5
The IASW Social Work Awards – Donal O’Malley	6
Office Manager Report – Danielle McGoldrick	7
Professional Development Co-Ordinator – Cliona Murphy	8

Special Interest, Affiliate & Associate Group Reports:

Social Workers in Foster Care – Cahal McHale	8
Social Workers in Adult Mental Health – Orla Prendergast	10
Child & Adolescent Mental Health Social Workers– Eoin Barry	10
Primary Care Social Workers – Eadaoin NiBrhion	11
Ageing – Aisling Coffey	13
Probation – John Balfe	14
Social Workers in Disability – Emer Haastrup	15
Practitioner Research Group – Sarah Donnelly	16
NEW Social Workers – Claire Costelloe	18
Social Workers in Migration – Susan Lewandowski	19
Retired Social Workers Group – Pat Waldron	20
Associate Groups	
The Irish Social Worker Journal – Frank Browne	20
The International Affairs Group – John Brennan	20
Affiliated Groups	
The Head Medical Social Workers – Amanda Casey	22



Board & Council Members 2016-2017

List of Board Members

	Chair – Frank Browne Treasurer – Aine McGuirk Joe McCarthy Hilda Loughran Ruth Murray	Vice Chair – John Brennan Secretary – Billie Anne McCauley Anette O’Callaghan Elizabeth Hamilton Donal O’Malley
--	---	---

Special Interest, Affiliate & Associate Group Representatives

	Ageing (SIGA)	Aisling Coffey
	Children & Families	Maria McGloughlin & Aoife Bairead
	Child/Adolescent Mental Health (CAMHS)	Eoin Barry
	Southern Region	Ann Holden
	Social Workers in Disability (SWID)	Emer Hastrup
	Social Workers in Probation	Saragh McGarrigle
	Adult Mental Health (SWAMH)	Orla Prendergast
	Primary Care	Eadoin NiBhrion
	Retired Members	Pat Waldron
	Foster Care	Cahal McHale
	Practitioner Researcher Group	Sarah Donnelly
	New Social Workers	Claire Costelloe
	The Irish Social Worker Chairperson (Interim) The Council of Irish Adoption Agencies Head Medical Social Workers International Affairs Committee	Frank Browne Therese McDermott Amanda Casey John Brennan

Board Reports

Chair Report

Frank Browne

My first year as Chair of the IASW has passed so quickly, but I think as an organisation we have continued to make progress in meeting the aims of our organisation and responding to needs of our ever-growing membership. IASW aims to promote the professional development of members, to strive for excellence in practice in the interests of those we work with. IASW will continue to use our influence as the professional body for social workers in Ireland to contribute positively to national policy and legislative developments.

I really am indebted to our office staff; Cliona and Danielle who really are the glue that holds everything together. I must express my appreciation to all the Board and Council members who have supported me in my role and who have given so much of their time to the IASW. There are many other members who have generously given of their time, volunteering to represent the profession on working groups, submitting articles to our journal or in many other ways as an active special interest group member.

While it is at times busy, it is also a privilege to be the Chair of IASW and to have an overview of social work in Ireland. The last year has seen a wide variety of activities within IASW and I offer a small flavour of what we achieved together:

We welcomed five **new Board members** this year Hilda, Ruth, Aine, Elizabeth and Annette. All have got up to speed quickly and along with Donal, John, Billie Anne, Joe and myself have worked together well. The Board has worked hard to address the financial deficits of previous years, by scrutinising carefully all items of expenditure and trying to increase membership. Our new treasurer Aine and the rest of the Board will work hard and addressing our finances in the coming year.

The Council has met regularly during the year and there was a wonderful sharing of ideas and perspectives. Many Council members volunteered to represent the IASW on working groups and to contribute to policy submissions. Vice Chair John Brennan has continued the arduous work of preparing for the 2018 Global Social Work and Social Development Conference along with the International Affairs Committee.

IASW has met with **key stake holders** as a means to promote social work and the needs of our service users, these included meetings with the Minister for Children Katherine Zappone, Senator Colette Kelleher, representatives of CORU, TUSLA, the Health and Social Care Professions Office, SAGE (support and advocacy service), just to name a few.

IASW has developed **social media guidance**, updated the **protocol for special interest groups** (SIGs) and new SIG's, which will be presented for approval at the AGM.

IASW nominated Nicola Byrne as the social work member of the Mental Health Commission and this was approved by the Minister for mental Health.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who has helped make IASW what it is today, an important voice for social work and most importantly those we work with. I am confident that the IASW Board will continue to work on your behalf to meet the aims of the organisation. But I ask for your continued support both by being an active member and encouraging other social workers you work with to join us. We are stronger together.



Frank Browne

Chairperson

Company Secretary

Billie Anne McCauley

The Company Secretary is responsible for the efficient administration of a company, particularly with regard to ensuring compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements and for ensuring that decisions of the Board of Directors are implemented. Despite the name, the role is not a clerical or secretarial role one in the usual sense. The company secretary ensures that an organization complies with relevant legislation and regulation, and keeps board members informed of their legal responsibilities.

Company secretary is the company named representative on legal documents, and it is their responsibility to ensure that the company and its directors operate within the law.

The main roles of the Secretary are:

- In consultation with the Chair agree and circulate the agenda for Board and all relevant committee meetings
- Ensure effective communication with members occurs.
- Check minutes with chair and circulate
- Other roles within the last year include:
 - Assist office manager/chair in dealing with issues that have arose in a quick response via email.
 - Respond directly to members of the public with their questions in relation to social work.

For the first half of the year I also took on the role of **Treasurer**

In this role, I provided financial governance over the day to day activities of the association, overseeing all outgoing of the board and co-authorizing and monitoring transactions, along with the officer manager and other member of the board.

My roles within the Board over the years has been easily manageable due to the hard work of the Office Manager, Danielle McGoldrick who I would like to thank for her ongoing commitment and dedication in improving the functioning of our association.

Finally, it has been a great pleasure to be part of such a passionate board over the last 9 years. I hope the board will continue to attract many forward-thinking professionals who want to ensure the social work profession continues to grow their high professional standards.

This IASW is run by members for members joining the association and the board is a way to ensure your voice is heard and assist in making the profession the best it can be. I for one look forward to seeing what the future holds.

Treasurer

Aine McGuirk

The role of the Treasurer is to provide financial governance over the IASW activities and to advise the board on financial matters such as new projects, cash flow and oversee the budgets and accounts.

Having joined the Board in June 2016 I was assigned the role of Treasurer in December. Billie Anne Johnson and John Brennan have assisted in this role by continuing to authorise transactions on the accounts until the bank processes are complete to pass over this authority to me. Since taking on this role I have reviewed the accounting and budgeting practices with the Office Manager to form a plan for making greater efficiencies in the management of the Association's finances. I have met with our bank and taken advice regarding the accounts and I have met with our Auditors John Meade to review the accounts as presented at the AGM. I have liaised closely with the Chairman on all aspects of the finances and made recommendations to the Board.

In regard to CPD monies I have acted to support the CPD Officer as required when financial or budgetary issues arise.

The end of year for 2016 has been audited by John Meade and will be presented and adopted at the AGM on the 13th May 2017. This audit shows that while the association is still in a healthy financial position and income is up, we

have incurred a deficit again this year which has further depleted our reserves. These losses are largely attributable to increased staff costs over 2016. Staffing costs are again stable and the aim of the Board is to break even this year. However, it would be prudent to bring the Association's reserves back up over the next few years.

Maintaining a healthy financial position can be achieved in a number of ways, for example by increasing membership, reviewing membership rates, and examination of other financial streams (grants, advertising, CPD, Journal costs, events, etc.). It is planned to update our office systems to support the Office Manager and to facilitate effective and efficient financial and budgetary planning and control. Once the new system is in place this should free up administration time for other work and projects going forward.

I thank John Meade's Office for their assistance in supporting the Association's Office and for the 2016 Audit.

The Social Work Registration Board, CORU

Joe McCarthy

No report for 2016/2017 term.

The IASW Social Work Awards 2016

Donal O'Malley

The second year of the Irish Association of Social Workers' National Social Work Awards culminated in the awards ceremony held on the June 17th, in Croke Park in Dublin and attended by almost a hundred people. The Minister for State for Mental Health, Helen McEntee was the guest of honor. The Social Work Awards is about recognising the excellent, diverse work that takes place in the profession and celebrating the many outstanding achievements of social workers across Ireland. It also has an important role to play in making social work's contribution know to the wider public. Tribute was paid to the 'life changing' work of social workers at the ceremony where guests recognised the skill and professionalism of the practitioners nominated in the 5 categories; Social Worker of the Year; Newly Qualified Social Worker of the Year; Practice Teacher of the Year; Social Work Team of the Year and new for 2016, Social Work Researcher of the Year.

The Social Worker of the Year category, sponsored by Tusla, celebrated the achievement of social workers over the expanse of their careers. This award category received a high number of entries, all deserving of recognition, but the judging panel were particularly impressed with the dedication, leadership and innovation displayed by the nominees who were short-listed namely; Gabrielle McDaid of Tusla in Donegal; Caroline Cantan –of Enable Ireland in Dublin and Joe McCarthy of Tusla in Cork. Fred McBride, the CEO of Tusla presented the Award to Caroline Cantan for her exemplary work in enhancing services for children with disabilities.

The Newly Qualified Social Worker of the Year was sponsored by CPL Recruitment. The judging panel managed to whittle down all the nominations received to a short-list of Victoria McGuinness of Mayo University Hospital; Kate Newell of Cork University Hospital and Michelle Byrne in Primary Care Centre in Dublin 8. The judges were looking for a practitioner with the potential to become a future role model for the profession as well as someone who had demonstrated considerable skill and professionalism in their career to date. The judges felt that Kate Newell best demonstrated this in her role as a medical social worker.

The Practice Teacher of the Year category seeks to give recognition to those social workers who are involved in the mentoring and supervising of students. The judges short-listed two individuals in this category; Brian Donnelly of HSE Mental Health Services in Clontarf, Dublin and Martina Doyle of the Brothers of Charity in Waterford. Both social workers had demonstrated an unwavering dedication to the next generation of social workers in the time and energy that they gave to their students. Ultimately, the judges decided on Brian Donnelly for his versatile approach to meeting his students learning needs.

The Social Work Team of the Year, this year sponsored by the HSE, seeks to celebrate the collective dedication, hard work and skill shown by numerous social work teams across the country in a variety of care-group settings. This year was no exception with an unprecedented number of nominations received presenting the judging panel with a considerable challenge to short-listed just three; Dublin North City Mental Health Team; Sligo University Hospital and Older Persons' Service and the Medical Social Work Department in The Mater Hospital, Dublin. The Award on the night

was presented by Minister McEntee to the Dublin North City Mental Health Team for their client-centered practice and innovation.

In recognition of the increasing emphasis on the need for quality social work research, it was decided to introduce the new category of Social Work Researcher for 2016. This was sponsored by the Centre for Effective Services. The three short-listed nominees were Nerilee Ceatha of Tusla in Dublin; Carmel Halton of University College Cork and Olivia O'Connell of Tusla in Cork. All three are champions of social work research and demonstrated how research can directly impact on practice. In its inaugural year, the judges decided that the Award be shared between Nerilee Ceatha and Carmel Halton.

In only its second year, the National Social Work Awards has done a lot to raise the profile of social work by acknowledging the excellent work done by all those nominated and by celebrating the individuals and the teams that serve as an inspiration to us all. The IASW would like to thank all the nominators and nominees for their applications; the organizing committee Paula Donohoe, Aideen McDonnell and Eleanor Dwyer and the judging panel Paula Donohoe (again!), Hilda Loughran and Norah Gibbons.

Office Report

Danielle McGoldrick

The 2016/2017 term has been an extremely busy year for the association. I was on maternity leave from July 2016 to February 2017. During this time, the office was in the safe hands of Sharon Melvin. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Sharon for all of her hard-work and continuous dedication to the work of the IASW during this period.

Since my return, my work has focused on; handover with Sharon, brining myself up to speed on the work of the association during my leave i.e. identifying where routine tasks had/had not been addressed, identifying what operational tasks had/had not been dealt with, establishing what was 'new' during this period and following up on this. Along with, membership renewal, preparation of the accounts for auditing, development and improvement of the in-house database & systems for membership payment, profile, reports, etc. I completed this work towards the end of April.

During the summer months, we will be moving our accounting systems over to a SAGE finance package. As part of this process, I will be assisting with the development of a bespoke finance package for the association and receiving training on this software.

From Autumn to Winter I will be working on some of the following:

- Development of some new sections on the website, including Our International Work, Organisational Chart, SIG Meeting Dates, etc.
- Developing a policy review schedule for the Board of Directors
- Updating and reviewing the Office Manual
- Updating and reviewing the Employee Handbook
- Developing Guidelines for when Representing IASW
- Developing a Finance Manual for the Office Manager & Treasurer

In addition, Cliona and I will be looking at our contractors and reviewing agreements with our service providers, which will include a tender process for some service providers.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Directors of the Board who work tirelessly for the Association and who's efforts greatly assist Cliona and I with our roles.

Professional Development Coordinator

Cliona Murphy

Since the last AGM, in relation to events:

- A total of 33 CPD events have been held including conferences (SIG & CPD Officer led) and workshops;
- The majority of events were held in Dublin (more than half of the membership is Dublin-based). Events were also held in Athlone, Galway, Sligo and Cork;
- Fourteen seminars on *CPD & the Requirements of Registration* have been provided nationwide;
- An increased number of interdisciplinary events and national conferences were co-ordinated with CPD officers from other Health and Social Care Professions;

The HSCP CPD Officers Network commissioned training on reflective practice which has informed the development of an Introduction to Reflective Practice workshop, piloted by the IASW and INDI CPD Officers and now being rolled out nationally. In addition to the **events** outlined above, **support** was provided to members to run events themselves. This support took the form of financial and administrative support including promotion of events through e-mail, Facebook, the IASW newsletter and www.iasw.ie. The nationwide events celebrating World Social Work Day 2017 is a good example with eight events supported by the IASW in addition to the two IASW led events in Cork and Dublin.

Promotion of the work and profile of the Association was progressed by populating the website and Facebook with news about the IASW and its work. This took the form of submissions on proposed policy and legislation, examples of advocacy work taken on behalf of the members and service users, IASW in the media, and presentations from relevant events. A newsletter is compiled and circulated to the membership on a regular basis updating members on the work and achievements of the Association.

Representing the views of social workers on matters of social policy and practice and **advocating for the interests of social work clients** are two key objectives of the Association. The IASW played an active role in the development of the HSE Strategy on Education and Development for Health and Social Care Professions through work as a member of the sub group tasked with responsibility for developing the Strategy. The Strategy was launched in February 2017.

A key element of the role has been to **provide information and advice** to social workers in relation to registration, continuing professional development and the *Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics for Social Workers*. Members are kept updated and informed of changes and clarifications led by CORU through member e-mails and the CPD section of the website. Seminars on this topic have been provided nationwide. These fora have provided an opportunity to **hear the views of members** and non-members alike, to discuss the issues arising and to **explore options as to how best to represent member concerns**. Member views on the CPD Standards and Requirements and related matters have been brought to CORU both verbally and in writing. Key concerns continue include difficulties accessing good quality supervision, the impact of the contexts within which social workers work on their capacity to adhere to the Code, whether the SWRB will provide advice and guidance in relation to conflicts within and about the Code and the risk of complaints of professional misconduct as well as the role of employers with regard to supporting registrants engage in CPD. Many social workers are seeking out support and advice from the IASW CPD Officer in relation to maintaining their CPD portfolio and providing supporting documentation for engagement in CPD.

Special Interest Group (SIG), Affiliate & Associate Group Reports

Foster Care SIG

Cahal McHale

Chairperson: Cahal McHale
Secretary: Karen Hope

Vice-Chair: Derek Hanley
Treasurer: Joan Boland

It has been a very busy year for SWIFC following on from a successful conference just prior to the last AGM. Despite a number of Committee members having experienced accidents, illness, family bereavements and the ever-increasing demands of work, members managed to make time to contribute to a busy year of SWIFC activity.

The Group held its AGM on 27th May, 2016 in UCD, following a very successful, and fully booked conference on "Adoption from Foster Care", organised jointly between SWIFC/ IASW and UCD. While the number of members

remaining on for the AGM was small, a new committee was elected with Cahal McHale returned for his third term as Chairperson and Karen Hope as Secretary. The position of vice chair was filled by Derek Hanley, with Joan Boland continuing as Treasurer.

There were 11 meetings of the committee held during the year and all but two of these were by teleconference. The group used the opportunity of the National IFCA Conference in Carlow on 15th October to hold one of the "face to face" meetings with the central items on the agenda to finalise the discussion document – *Foster Care: Envisioning the Future*. A plan for its completion and publication was agreed with a time scale suggested and an editorial group selected.

Following this meeting, proof-readers were approached and discussions took place between SWIFC secretary and the CPD officer of the IASW in respect of publication. A draft of the document was submitted to the IASW Chairperson and subsequently to the board for consideration.

After a series of delays, a date for the launch of the discussion document was set for 2nd March to coincide with National Fostering Awareness Week. But even of more significance, from the perspective of attracting media attention, was the announcement by government that two reports were to be published in respect of a foster child with a disability in the south east (referred to as "Grace"). This brought foster care and its deficits into stark focus. The result was national coverage of the launch of *"Foster Care: Envisioning the Future"* with interviews being carried out with the authors of the document on Lunchtime and Six One News programmes.

The document has also been cited more recently by a district court Judge in presenting a paper at Barnardos conference on the proposed legislation on Guardians ad Litem. Given that an important objective in producing the document was to generate discussion on the many facets of foster care and the challenges it faces, it is gratifying that the subject is now receiving increased attention.

We have recently received an offer from the Department of Child and Youth Affairs to meet to discuss our recommendations and at the time of the launch, where both Tusla and the DoCYA were represented, reference was made to the timeliness of the publication as a contribution towards informing the work of Tusla's Alternative Care strategy which is at an advanced stage of completion. These factors suggest hopeful signs the document may not simply be filed away.

While the work of the group over the last two years has been driven by a sustained commitment to complete the document, there is now a recognition among the members that the next pressing task is to garner support and to have the recommendations contained within it advanced. It is hoped that greater attention will now be drawn to the serious and increasing deficits in recruitment, retention and support of foster care as well as the other shortcomings identified in the broader areas of Child Care.

The Group is very grateful to the Frank, IASW Chairperson; Cliona, CPD officer; Danielle, Office Manager and Board members, particularly Joe McCarthy, for all their assistance and support in bringing the document to completing and publication. Contacts had also been made with the Children and Families SIG, initially in respect of the discussion document but subsequently in response to a proposal that the two SIGs establish some regular links. It is hoped that this will enable us to pursue areas of mutual interest in more effective ways.

SWIFC is currently involved in arranging their AGM in Athlone on 11th May to take place on the afternoon before the National IASW Conference. A CPD event exploring some of the issues in the discussion document is also being scheduled to follow the SWIFC AGM.

A motion is being tabled at the IASW AGM to mandate the Association to call "... on the Minister for Children & Youth Affairs to establish a Working Party to review Foster Care provision and progress the further development of the service for children in care based on the recommendations..." of the report which can be accessed at: <https://www.iasw.ie/news-post.aspx?contentid=7555>

We would urge all IASW members and Social Workers in general to read the document and contribute to the complex discussions that will be necessary to discern how Ireland can progress the many challenges facing child care.

Southern Region SIG

Anne Holden

No report for 2016/2017 term.

Adult Mental Health SIG

Orla Prendergast

S.W.A.M.H. – is a special interest group in transition. S.W.A.M.H. has lost some committee members and has also gained new members and talent.

Orla Prendergast was elected to the role of Chairperson. Anna Carroll remains on as secretary. Jim Campbell, Director of Social Work at T.C.D. has joined the team. Jim kindly presented his research on Capacity Legislation to the committee.

S.W.A.M.H. are undertaking a survey of psychosocial interventions. The purpose of this research is to showcase the wide skillset of social workers in mental health throughout Ireland.

S.W.A.M.H. are challenging a decision to exclude mental illness from new legislation on 'Advanced Care Directives' and intend to work alongside Mental Health Reform on this motion.

S.W.A.M.H. will hold a Conference in the Aisling Hotel on 3rd November 2017. This conference will showcase the various therapeutic work and skill of social workers in mental health. Speakers at the conference are as yet to be confirmed however proposed lectures on topics such as, Motivational Interviewing, Behavioral Family therapy and Dialectical Behavioral Therapy have been proposed. It is also planned to have social workers in the field present case presentations on the day.

S.W.A.M.H. will put a motion forward to elect a Deputy and Vice Chair at their A.G.M. this summer.

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services SIG

Eoin Barry

The CAMHS SIG had three national meetings this year. In May 2016, we met in Tullamore, on the day we looked at issues arising for member's issues arising from the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) which was introduced for CAMHS last year. This has presented a number of difficulties for social workers. One issue related to a lack of clarity in relation to the expectation of the social workers for key working, in the absence of a clear policy this was interpreted differently around the country. With some social workers being expected to key work a huge number of cases. At the May meeting we had a talk on the current clinical programmes for eating disorders, which had started to be rolled out nationwide.

For a number of months last year, we had a representative on the CAMHS improvement committee. This committee was reviewing the SOP. At the committee, we highlighted issues arising for members in the relation to the SOP and the issue of key working. However, this group has since been disbanded and problems with the SOP continue. We will continue to advocate for members in the year ahead.

In September, we met in Dublin. Frank Browne met with members to discuss the benefits and the importance of membership of the IASW. IASW members at the event spoke also spoke about the benefit of membership, some expressed concern with cost, in particular the additional cost since the CORU regulation was an introduced. We had a talk on issues relating to separated parents and the problems this can cause for children and young people.

The CAMHS SIG had its annual general meeting in February 2017. At this meeting members spoke about CPD and what speakers we should try to organise for upcoming meetings. We looked at innovative practices that members are

using on their teams, we agreed to have time for the sharing of practice ideas a part of our meetings from now on. At the February meeting we had a talk from BelongTo on working with LGBT young people.

Council and office members elected at our AGM

Chair : Eoin Barry (Nominated by Fiona ; seconded by Caitlin)

Secretary: Aoife Purcell (Nominated by Olivia; seconded by Lynn)

Committee Members: Olivia Fagan, Lynn Harnedy, Lorraine O'Reilly, Claire Foley, Sharon Galligan, Sheila

McKenna, Siobhan Kelly, Maria Gates, Brid Griffin and Titiola Sokan

Nominated member to attend:

IASW Council rep – Lorraine O'Reilly

Children's Mental Health Coalition rep – Claire Foley (Olivia Fagan if Claire unavailable)

Child & Family SIG

Maria McGloughlin

No report for 2016/2017 term.

Primary Care SIG

Eadaoin NiBhrion

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 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 *Triple 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 HSE 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 the 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, one for professionals and one for clients. 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 in September. Planning is underway and a sub-group has been established.
- Hold an AGM in September/October 2017.

Older Persons SIG

Aisling Coffey

Chair: Aisling Coffey

Vice Chair: Anette O Callaghan **Secretary:** Fiachra McCabe

This report commences by acknowledging the chair and secretary of the 2015-2016 term, Bernadette Casey and Anette O'Callaghan, for their hard work and commitment. Under Bernadette's chairmanship, SIGA held a **seminar and AGM on 27/07/16**. The seminar topic was the "**Practical Application of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Persons at Risk of Abuse: Policy and Procedures**". Siobhan Nunn, PSW, Safeguarding and Protection Team CHO Area 7 was keynote speaker. This seminar was well attended and generated robust discussion on the need for all social workers to work together to meet the needs of the vulnerable adult at risk of abuse. The seminar also **complemented the**

recent work of the IASW in raising member feedback on the operation of the national safeguarding policy with the HSE.

The first meeting of the 2016-2017 SIGA term took place in September 2016. At this meeting **SIGA members developed a vision, mission and objectives for this SIGA term aligned with the IASW strategic plan.**

SIGA Vision Statement:

Social workers engaging in the highest standards of professional practice with older persons, promoting positive ageing, supporting autonomy and self-determination and advocating for continuous improvement in service delivery.

SIGA Mission Statement

SIGA, as a Special Interest Group of IASW, seeks to enable the continuous professional development of social work practice with older persons and represent the needs of older persons from a social work perspective.

SIGA Objectives

1. Provide a professional forum for social workers working with older persons to exchange information and support.
2. Influence policy, legislation and service delivery via IASW structures.
3. Professional development of social work practice to examine opportunities for education and involvement in research.
4. Advocacy / representation on the needs of older persons from a social work perspective.

All SIGA work during the 2016-2017 terms falls under these objectives and is outlined below:

1) Provide a professional forum for social workers working with older persons to exchange information and support.

- ✓ SIGA held **bi-monthly meetings** in St Mary's Hospital. At these meetings, there were information updates and discussion on many issues affecting social work with older persons including:
 - Assisted Decision Making Act and the HSE's national implementation programme.
 - Media reports in relation to delayed discharges in acute hospital and on the Nursing Home Support Scheme.
 - Integrated Care Programme and the establishment of integrated care teams in each CHO.
- ✓ In between meetings there was regular **email correspondence** via the chair in relation to education, conferences, publications and resources to support social workers in their practice
- ✓ The SIGA chair attended a meeting on Wednesday 19.04.17 with chairs of Head Medical, SWID and Primary Care to discuss issues of mutual interest and concern including the safeguarding policy review, Home Care Packages, Designated Officer and Designated Liaison Person (DLP) Roles, Record Keeping, access to supervision, social work staffing and structures.

2) Influence policy, legislation and service delivery via IASW structures

HSE's Guide for Health and Social Care Professionals on the Assisted Decision Making Act (ADM Act)

- ✓ SIGA members, Deirdre Mc Nally, Fiachra Mc Cabe, Anette O Callaghan and Aisling Coffey, read and provided IASW with written feedback on behalf of SIGA in relation to the HSE's Guide for Health and Social Care Professionals on the Assisted Decision Making Act in April 2017.
- ✓ This feedback with amalgamated with other Council member feedback and submitted to the HSE on 24.04.17.
- ✓ The chair also previously read and provided feedback on an earlier guidance document produced by the HSE Quality Improvement Division in January 2017.

3) Professional development of social work practice to examine opportunities for education and involvement in research

- ✓ SIGA members Cliona Beaumont, Mary Walsh, Deirdre Mc Nally and Alison Doyle have kindly agreed to write a brief two paragraph piece on the **role of social work with older persons** in their respective settings (acute, rehab, residential and mental health).

- ✓ **SIGA annual conference** planned for 10.11.17. The topic centers on the promotion of excellence in working with those affected by dementia and their families. Outstanding work to do includes brainstorming priority learning areas for social workers and related speakers
- ✓ With the chair of the Head Medical SW Group, the Chair of SIGA reviewed the **IASW Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct** against the CORU Code of Conduct and Ethics. Feedback given to the Chair of the Board for Board's consideration.

4) Advocacy / representation on the needs of older persons from a social work perspective

Home Care Campaigning

- ✓ The chair of SIGA spoke as part of **panel discussion** in relation to home care at the launch of "*Care Alliance – Home Care Provision in ROI 2008-2016: An Analysis*" on 20/09/16.
- ✓ On 29/09/16 the IASW joined a group of not-for-profit organisations and campaigners to **call for increased investment in home care in Budget 2017**. This campaign explicitly referenced the research published by our colleagues Sarah Donnelly in UCD, John Brennan in the IASW, Age Action and the Alzheimer's Society.

Statutory Home Care Consultation

- ✓ The IASW worked as part of a multi-agency group to publish the "**Discussion Document on the Consultation Process for the Establishment of a Statutory Homecare Scheme**".
- ✓ The aim of the document is to support Minister Mc Entee in creating a robust, open and participative consultation process ensuring the voices of service users, families and carers are heard.
- ✓ There is also scope for the IASW to similarly prepare its own broader submission for the forthcoming consultation process. At present SIGA members Deirdre Mc Nally, Geraldine Healy, Anette O Callaghan, Mary Walsh and Fiachra Mc Cabe are brain storming on what social workers believe are the priorities for any statutory home care scheme.

National Clinical Programme for Older People

- ✓ John Brennan remains engaged as IASW rep on the National Clinical Programme for Older People (NCPOP)
- ✓ An Inter-Professional Interest Group (IIG) was formed in late 2015 within the NCPOP to bring together health and social care and other related professional representatives. The Interest Group is embarking upon a project to review discipline-specific and inter-professional competencies for those working with older people.
- ✓ John will present on the IIG at the May 2017 SIGA meeting

It has been my pleasure chairing SIGA this term.

Probation SIG

John Balfe

During 2016, the probation special interest group met a number of times to progress professional issue regarding social work in the role of a probation officer.

Activities to date:

The probation special interest group was mainly active in attempting to re-establish itself as a progressive special interest group within the Council of the Irish Association of Social Workers.

The focus was to reconnect with the Association, to recruit new members, and to establish itself within the parameters of the functions of a special interest group.

This continues to present as a challenge and the actions required will be to hold an AGM in the near future with a view to establishing a working committee. It is envisaged that this committee will comprise of associate members as per the recommendations of the Association

Future actions:

As outlined the probation special interest group will now convene in the near future to establish itself in a more regular context as a working committee. The assistance and advice of the chair of the association and also of the office of the Association have been greatly beneficial in attempting to progress this matter.

It is hoped that the AGM will have a presentation from the chair of the Association and also a guest academic speaker.

Never before has it become more important to have a strong professional social work identity when working within the Irish probation service. With this in view then the role of the Irish Association of social workers when informing on professional issues has become increasingly important. The challenge now is winning hearts and minds to that particular cause.

Disability SIG

Emer Haastrup

SWID have had another busy year with many issues brought forward for discussion and debate by SWID members. One theme that continues to dominate in the disability sector is the social work role, it's definition, it's erosion, it's misunderstanding. SWID continues to link with other social workers in other SIGS in relation to this issue. We also brought it to the attention of IASW Council on the basis that it would appear to be a wider issue than just Disability. SWID feels that this is an issue that requires social workers to work together to ensure that the values and ethics that underpin our role are understood by others and the value of what we do is not undermined but recognized and respected and protected at all levels but in particular at the macro level.

Our joint conference with Primary Care Special Interest Group last October was very successful. We had the benefit of not only very relevant topics on the program but also had the added value of two SIGS joining together. Social workers had much to discuss in general terms and the hot topic of the day you guessed it, CPD. This year SWID has broken from tradition and will not host its Conference in October as was tradition. This is to allow for a training opportunity identified as a need in the area of disability. SWID has been working tirelessly behind the scenes to make this training a reality. The training is on Sibshops and will be delivered by Don Meyers from the US. Thanks to the hard work of our Chair, Claire Convery who linked closely with IASW CPD Officer Cliona Murphy, this training will take place in early October 2017. Places are limited but it promises to deliver a well-researched and evidenced based training that is fully certified. Completion of the training will allow the cert holder to give training in this area.

The continued role out of the Safeguarding Legislation continues to bring with it urgent requirements around the need for processes and systems that will support social workers in their work. In practice, many of the systems/pathways are unworkable for agencies and their staff creating unworkable expectations and impact on already stretched resources. SWID members have provided feedback to our SWID colleague on the National Review Group and continue to look to meet with the Minister for Health, to air concerns and make recommendations on this legislation.

SWID learned that a National Steering Group has been appointed in relation to the Assisted Decision Making (Capacity) Act 2015. We cannot emphasize enough the value and necessity of having social work on this Steering Group. We continue to seek representation through IASW.

Progressing Disability Services continues to rumble on and new Network Disability Teams are being formed or are in the process of being formed in different regions around the country. The social work issues arising from redeployment center around Child Protection Policy, reporting pathways, the DLP role, Respite Services, Career Pathways and supervision for workers. As a SIG we are continuously receiving emails and phone calls from members looking for advice and support in this area and it is valuable to share our direct experience

Our SIG membership continues to grow and each year we welcome new members onto the committee as well as giving recognition to those who have represented SWID on the committee for many years. We welcome any new members who will always have new ideas and views that add value to our SIG. We are in the lucky position to have regional representation and active members around the country who feed in to our SIG. We have lost two long

standing members recently Ruth Robinson and Emer Ingoldsby. Both were committed and hard-working and advocated strongly on disability issues. We wish both well in their retirement.

Practitioner Research Group

Sarah Donnelly

- The Practitioner Research Special Interest Group supports social workers to contribute to development of the professional knowledge base, to develop new skills and to meet CPD requirements of registration. To achieve this, the group supports social workers to disseminate research and evaluation work through publication, poster presentations, conference papers, etc. through provision of training opportunities, facilitating peer support, brokering access to resources (mentors, useful articles, tools, information, etc.) and other supports identified. The group also supports social workers with no research skills & knowledge who wish to engage in research in their workplace.
- Dublin Meetings are held from 6-7.15pm on the last Monday of each month in Trinity College Dublin. The Dublin meetings are coordinated by Sarah Donnelly, Lecturer in Social Work UCD who is also current Chairperson of the SIG. Aideen McDonnell is current secretary for the group.
- A new 'personal development plan' for SIG members has been drafted which it is hoped will assist SIG members to align research activities and planning with CORU CPD requirements. Dublin SIG group has also tried to adopt a model whereby alternate meetings include a presentation/training input by a SIG member on something related to research activities e.g. in October 2016, Diarmuid O'Coimin, End of Life Care Coordinator, Mater Hospital Dublin presented on '*Preparing and Presenting a Poster at a Conference*'.
- The Cork SIG Practitioner Research Group is now held bi-monthly in UCC with its coordinator being Olwen Halvey (UCC). Attendance at meetings has been decreasing and the small number of practitioners who attend is a concern. Cork SIG are anxious to explore ways to try and engage with more practitioners and to build collaborations and initiate research projects between academics and practitioners and to explore further what structures and supports might assist with this.
- Galway SIG meetings are held less frequently (bi-monthly/quarterly) and the group is coordinated by Eileen Lauster.
- The SIG webpage on the IASW has been populated with useful resources and links for practitioner researchers and is updated on a regular basis however it needs to be updated and content reviewed post our AGM.

Developments/Events in 2016/2017 have included:

Practitioner Research Edition of Irish Social Worker

The Practitioner Research Edition of the Irish Social Worker has now been published. This edition of the journal includes nine articles showcasing different aspects of practitioner research from across the country with contributors representing a mix of social workers in practice and in academia. I would like to sincerely thank all contributors to this edition and my co-editor Dr Carmel Halton, UCC. We would also like to thank Mr. Frank Browne, Chairperson of IASW and Irish Social Worker Journal Editor for offering us the opportunity to devote an edition of the journal to practitioner research.

4th Annual HSE Health and Social Care Professionals Research Conference

A significant number of practitioner researchers presented posters and/or oral presentations at the 4th Annual HSE Health and Social Care Professionals Research Conference which was held on 16th November 2016 in Dublin Castle. We feel this was a huge success as in previous years, there were no social work presentations/representation at this conference and we hope this will act as a firm building block to heightening and promoting the profile of social work research in Ireland.

IASW National Conference 2016

The Practitioner Research SIG also coordinated a research symposium as one of the parallel sessions at the IASW Annual Conference and AGM 2016. This initiative provided a unique platform to practitioner researchers

from across the country to present either a poster or oral presentation of research which they are currently involved in.

IASW National Conference 2017

The IASW 2017 National Conference is issued a call for oral and poster presentations for this year's conference and 4 practitioner researchers have been offered a 15-minute oral presentation to all conference attendees which is a significant development. In addition, 10 practitioner researchers will provide poster presentations. The number of abstracts submitted however was considerable lower than what might have been expected and this requires some consideration and reflection in terms of the focus of our SIG.

Identified Training Needs by SIG members

An invitation was issued to all SIG members during 2016 to suggest training and supports which might assist SIG members to become more research active and which would also assist with SIG planning for 2017.

Training needs identified included:

1. Research Dissemination: thinking beyond traditional methods of dissemination (conference posters, journal articles) and highlighting alternatives such as blogs, infographics, interactive documents/presentations etc. – how to engage key stakeholders and knowledge transfer strategies.
2. Qualitative data analysis approaches
3. Qualitative research: Conducting a thematic analysis of qualitative comments - theory and practice.
4. Quantitative research: The ABC's of developing a questionnaire for research purposes, testing, validating and ensuring it meets all methodological criteria for reliability.
5. Evidence-based practice for Social Work: taking the time to really sit down and focus on what it means/looks like to be using EBP in social work practice, discuss the challenges, the role of the SIG group within that etc.
6. Research methodology i.e. research approaches that can be used easily in work place settings – how to run a focus group, how to undertake quantitative research questionnaires with service users/families, action research.
7. Conducting research in the practice setting – guidelines for beginners and how to get a research project up and running
8. Audit, service evaluation and research – differences and similarities and benefits of conducting these.
9. Evaluating published research (with a view to using in practice) e.g. understanding terms such as Impact factor and Ranking
10. Client/patient participation in research
11. Narrative research
12. Writing for publication

AGM and Election of Officers

The group held its AGM and convened a formal election of officers on 24th March 2017. Sarah Donnelly was re-elected as Chairperson of the SIG and Nerilee Ceatha as Vice-Chairperson. Aideen Mc Donnell was re-elected as Secretary and Brian Donnelly, Coletta Dalinkeni, Eavan Brady and Diarmuid O'Coimin as Committee Members.

It was agreed that it would be helpful if attendance at SIG meetings could be linked to CORU CPD credit and to trial meetings for Dublin SIG only taking place every 2 months between 6 and 7:30pm as this may make attendance more feasible. Committee to meet after the SIG meeting to allow the SIG meeting to focus on supporting member's engagement with research sign in sheet for meetings to be developed. To include bullet points of topics discussed at meetings and this can be used as evidence of membership for CORU CPD portfolios. Sign-in sheet to be coordinated by each Regional SIG Coordinator (Sarah, Dublin; Olwyn, Cork and Eileen, Galway)

A List of forthcoming dates and presentation was discussed for Dublin SIG group and it was thought that this might be a model the other regional SIG's might consider adopting. Events to be advertised to all IASW members. Highlighting 'newcomers welcome.'

Upcoming events for Dublin SIG include:

April 24th: Nerilee Ceatha: *Incorporating Research in CORU CPD*

June 26th: Eavan Brady: *Evaluating Published Research*

Sept: Dr John Devaney: *Developing Surveys for Social Work Research: TBC*

Nov 27th: Colletta Dalikeni: *Action Research as practitioner based.*

- The Practitioner Research SIG will also be discussing and exploring the possibility of holding a 2nd Practitioner Research SIG Conference in 2017/2018.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all SIG members for their help and support over the last year. I would like to thank Aideen Mc Donnell in her role as secretary of the SIG and Cliona Murphy, CPD Officer for IASW and Danielle Mc Goldrick, Office Manager IASW for their continued support, patience and help.

Newly Qualified Social Workers

Claire Costello

Committee and Group Members:

Claire Costelloe, Chairperson

Karen Quinn, Secretary

Michelle Byrne, Treasurer or Vice Chair

Leanne Clancy, Committee Member

No other permanent members – attendees of peer consultations fluctuate with each session.

Overview of the Special Interest Group:

The IASW Newly Qualified Social Worker Group invites Social Workers who are in their first three years in their first job in Social Work, as well as undergraduate and post-graduate student Social Workers to engage in peer consultation, as a support for the transition from college to employment.

Key Benefits of this Special Interest Group:

- Continuous Professional Development
- Seek support from other Newly Qualified Social Workers
- Discussion of the issues affecting Newly Qualified Social Workers

Peer Consultation

In June and July 2016, the group discussed articles on the topics of self-care and cultural competence in social work. A particularly interesting case study was discussed during our meeting in July regarding a child in care with complex mental health needs, the types of residential and other support services available in the Dublin area and the role of the Guardian ad Litem in the Court and Care Planning processes.

No consultations were held August due to low attendance at the group sessions over the summer months and an Introduction Evening was held in September to encourage a larger attendance at the groups.

The Peer Consultation in November focused on "Practical Tools for New Social Workers" including a discussion on time management and managing administrative tasks. The Peer Consultation in December focused on the area of Child Protection including a discussion on "my first year in practice", case example, key issues in the area for Social Workers in this area, useful articles and useful training.

The Peer Consultation in March 2017 focused on the area of Medical Social Work and Primary Care. The discussion was structured the same as the peer consultation on Child Protection. The next consultation will focus on the area of Mental Health. The Newly Qualified Conference will be on 16th June on the topic of Trauma Informed Care.

Annual Conference and AGM, June 2016

The Newly Qualified Conference will be on 16th June on the topic of Trauma Informed Care. Speakers and location to be confirmed.

Social Work & Migration

Susan Lewandowski

The Social Work and Migration SIG was formed in May 2016. There are 48 members in our group and we have 9 Committee members: Susan Lewandowski, Chairperson, Deborah Chemhere, Group Secretary, Carol Carr; Colletta Dalikeni; Brian Davis; Deborah Chemhere; Aileen Dunne; Edizemi Onilenia; Maeve Foreman, Seán Lynch.

The SIG includes social workers from a wide variety of settings including child protection and welfare, disability, family support, medical, mental health, and primary care sectors, as well as representatives of immigrant support centres, academics and social work student our members have a particular interest in working with cultural diversity and developing the necessary skills required to work in a proactive, anti-oppressive, non-discriminatory way in their own setting.

Group Activities in the year:

➤ **Seminars**

We held two seminars to date, based on the themes of migration and social work. Our first seminar looked at Child protection social work with migrant families, presented by Daniela Jurj, National Coordinator of the Migrant Family Support Service, New Communities Partnership and our second seminar was presented by Katie Mannion, Solicitor from the Immigrant Council of Ireland on the NGO's recent research report: "Children and Young People's Experiences of Migration".

Both seminars were very well attended by practitioners and students with widespread representation from around the country. It was clear from both seminars that there is a pressing need for more debate and discussion amongst practitioners to promote best practice in social work with migrant families.

We documented these learning needs and fed them back to the IASW to form part of the wider CPD planning for 2017.

➤ **SIG 1st Annual Conference.**

A date has been set for our first annual conference, 13th, October 2017 and we will be planning this throughout the summer.

As part of this we will be reaching out to the wider social work community to invite them to and themes will be based on learning needs reported back to us from the wider SIG group members. These themes include cultural competency, migrants and mental health, the immigration system, global issues, anti-discriminatory with migrants, and foster care provision for migrant children.

➤ **Media & Awareness Raising**

We issued a press release on behalf of our SIG in collaboration with the Irish Refugee Council in November 2016 in response to the demolition of the camp at Calais and the particular concern we held around the situation of unaccompanied minors left behind in the camp.

We also joined the 'Not on Our Watch' campaign to highlight this issue and the need for the Government to accept unaccompanied minors and refugee families as part of the Refugee Resettlement Programme. Since then the Government have committed to taking an additional 200 unaccompanied minors.

➤ **SIG Representation at outside Events**

We had membership representation at a number of events throughout the year, including the Immigrant Council of Ireland's research report launch on Children and Young People's Experiences of Migration, Conference of INGOs event, Oireachtas briefing Defence for Children International/Friends of Palestine and the launch of Mental Health Reform's guidelines for mental health work with migrants.

4 Committee members attended the New Communities Partnership Conference: "'Message Sent is Not Always Message Received - Improving outcomes for families from new communities and professionals in child protection interventions" in March of this year.

➤ **Organisational**

We agreed to restructure our meetings for 2017, to ensure our seminars coincide with each SIG meeting, and planned our meeting dates for the first half of 2017.

We also adopted our Group protocol document at our SIG meeting in March 2017 based on the template provided by the IASW.

Retired Social Workers Group

Pat Waldron

This group meets for lunch every second month in Clayton's Hotel, Ballsbridge, Dublin. A successful meeting of about 30 plus retirees met in April. The next dates will be in June & September. Two "new" members joined us in April. The group is open to everyone from any part of the country and would welcome new members any ideas for future functions. Margaret Horne, former President and retired Medical social worker co-ordinates the lunch meetings. The Clayton Hotel can be accessed by bus and the local Dart station is Sandymount.

Associate Group; the Irish Social Worker Journal

Frank Browne

Members of the Journal Committee: Frank Browne, Majella Hickey, and Steven Peet.

The IASW Journal Committee has continued to work well together during the year. We have used tele-conferencing and e/mail to conduct our work, reviewing submitted articles and offering feedback.

The Journal committee plans to have a summer and winter Journal in the coming year and work is advancing on the summer edition.

I would especially like to thank Sarah Donnelly and Carmel Halton for editing the "Practitioner Research Edition" that you would all have received at the beginning of the year. I would also like to thank all those who contributed to the excellent journal.

The Journal Committee welcomes both research based articles and articles with a reflective practice focus. The Journal Committee will offer support and guidance as required. All articles published in the Irish Social Worker Journal are now available after six months, (with the author's permission) to Lenus the HSE open access repository for Irish health publications. This facilitates authors to disseminate their work to a much wider audience both in Ireland and internationally.

Associate Group; International Affairs Committee

John Brennan

Members: Anna Deneher, Ineke Durville, Maria Swan, Kerry Cuskelly, Frank Browne (ex-officio) and John Brennan (Chairperson)

2018 Global Social Work and Social Development Conference: 'Environmental Sustainability and Community Development'

During the year, the IAC members were engaged with partners from UCD, TCD, UCC, NUIG and the European Anti-Poverty Network in preparing for this conference in Dublin in July 2018. Currently, invitations have been sent to potential keynote speakers and the 'call-for-papers' is due shortly.

John Brennan and Robin Hanan (EAPN Ireland) attended the global social work and social development conference held in Seoul, Korea in late July 2016 to promote the 2018 conference in Dublin and give formal reports to the three-

global social work and social development organisations. We aim to attract up to 2000 delegates from across the globe.

Ineke Durville and John Brennan met Carolyn Ewart, the Professional Officer with the Northern Ireland Association of Social Work (NIASW), a number of times during the year in planning the involvement of NIASW in the 2018 conference.

In March 2017, the three global organisations met with the conference organising committee in Dublin for an update on the plans and progress made.



IFSW World Social Work Day 2016

WSWD was celebrated on the 21.03.2016. As is now the norm, a number of successful events were held across the country, including in Cork, Dublin and Galway. All SIGs were invited to get involved. In Dublin, Maria Swan and Ineke Durville led the IASW in a session on homelessness in Ireland.

Dutch Student Visit

Ineke Durville and John Brennan met 30 social work students from Holland and five students from Belgium in April 2016 while they are on a trip to Ireland. We are due to meet 20 students from the USA at the end of May.

IFSW Meetings

IFSW-European Delegate Meeting 2017: Anna Deneher, Maria Swan and John Brennan are due to attend this meeting to be held in Reykjavik, Iceland at the end of May. Anna and Maria will attend the follow-on conference there and Maria will present a paper. We also have a number of papers being submitted by IASW members.

IFSW Global General Assembly: John Brennan attended this bi-annual meeting in Seoul, South Korea in late July last year.

IFSW Matters

Key work areas for IFSW-Europe in 2016-17 were social work in times of austerity, social work with migrants, refugees and asylum seekers and EU Social Platform matters.

The IAC is working on an IFSW draft document *Guiding Principles for Social Workers concerning their role in the assessment of children's cases that cross nation state borders.*

EU Social Platform (SP): The SP continues to pursue a variety of social policy issues at EU level. This activity generates a good deal of documentation on issues of interest to social work – human rights, inclusion, equality, poverty, amongst others. IFSW-Europe participates in the preparation of position papers, attends meetings in Brussels, etc., through its SP Team. John Brennan works on this team.

Council of Europe International NGO Conference (INGO) Visit to Dublin

A four-person delegation of this Strasbourg based group had a successful visit Dublin from 24-27th April. IASW was the host organisation. The purpose of the trip was to meet a broad range of Irish NGOs plus officials of three Govt Departments, the IHREC and the Citizen's Assembly to introduce them to the Conference of INGOs and discuss NGO participation in the public/political decision-making process. To quote from the CoE briefing: *'The participation of civil society in decision-making is one of the priorities of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe and guidelines on civil*

society's effective and meaningful participation in the political decision-making process are being developed for possible adoption by the Committee of Ministers'. Aside from myself and Áine McGuirk, Maeve Foreman from the Social Work and Migrants SIG attended.

Two meetings with NGOs were held on the 25th and separate meetings with three Government Departments, the IHREC and the Citizen's Assembly were held on the 26th and 27th. A Report on this visit (the fifth such visit to a European city in the past year) will be prepared for the Council of Europe by the end of June this year.

IAC Webpage on the IASW Website

Follow events and updates on our work on our webpage.

Finally, many thanks to Danielle and Cliona in the IASW office for all of their support to the committee during the year.

Affiliated Group; Head Medical Social Workers Group

Amanda Casey

Chairperson: Amanda Casey, HMSW Mater Hospital

Vice Chairperson: Carol de Wilde, HMSW St Colmcilles Hospital

Secretary: Anne O'Loughlin, HMSW, National Rehabilitation Hospital

The National Head Medical Social Workers (HMSW) Forum is an affiliated group of the IASW. We represent social work managers in a variety of health-related settings including acute, rehabilitation, private, paediatric and maternity hospitals and hospices. We have a membership of over 35 agencies nationally and meet bi monthly.

The purpose of the National Head Medical Social Worker's Forum is to provide a medium for the development of medical social work services in hospitals across Ireland, and to promote best practice standards among medical social workers in Ireland.

Aims:

- . Strategic development and workforce planning
- . Support for members of the group regarding operational and site-specific issues
- . Advocacy on relevant policy issues and National Clinical Programmes affecting the people that we work with
- . Standardise processes across agencies to encourage and support best practice
- . Support members in their everyday work through the discussion of challenges in the practice of medical social work

Our work over the last 12 months has concentrated on the following key strategic areas:

- Our annual conference was held in Kilkenny in September 2016. Presentations were made on a number of key topics including "Speaking Up for Social Work", "Ethics and Social Work", "Older People and Capacity", "Reframing Discharge Planning" and "Social Work in Ireland – Changes and Continuity". A number of subgroups were identified to progress the following priorities for the group
 1. Branding and lobbying with IASW
 2. Research
 3. Discharge and Care planning
 4. Staffing levels and structures for MSWs
- HMSWs attended a workshop by the Assisted Decision Making Capacity Act Project Manager within the Quality Improvement Division of the HSE. They are interested to work with Medical Social Workers in planning the roll out and impact of the new legislation on our work and acknowledged that social work is well placed to contribute to the development of procedures around this. We made a submission via the IASW to the consultation process for the HSCP Guidelines on the Mental Capacity (Assisted Decision Making) Act
- Ongoing liaison with HSE/Tusla re roll out of Children First Policy. Most HMSW involved as either Designated Liaison Persons or Chairs of Local Implementation Committees. We are actively engaged with the Acute Hospitals Division to make representations for 2018 estimates for MSW posts in hospitals across the country to support the implementation of Children First

- Liaison with HSE Social Inclusion, Dublin Regional Homeless Executive and NGOs regarding the National protocol for the Discharge of Homeless Patients from hospitals. We are calling on an immediate end to one night only/non-24-hour access accommodation for people being discharged from hospital.
- Representations via the Acute Hospitals Division on the national review group for the Safeguarding policy. This is envisaged to take approx. 6 months and will provide the opportunity to give stakeholder feedback on the current policy. We will be preparing a submission as required.
- The group contributed to preparation for IASW meetings with SAGE and regarding the proposed review of statutory framework for Home Care Packages. We are seeking social work representation at the upcoming Irish Gerontological Society Seminar on same in May 2017.
- We had representation on the RSCI Towards 2026 policy document looking at the changing healthcare environment over the next 10 years.

Affiliated Group; Council of Irish Adoption Agencies (CIAA)

Therese McDermott

No report for 2016/2017 term.



IASW