

SIGA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

St Mary's Hospital

26/07/17



2015-2016 Leadership

- Acknowledging the chair and secretary of the 2015-2016 term, Bernadette Casey and Anette O'Callaghan, for their hard work and commitment.
- Under their leadership, 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”***.

2016-2017 SIGA Committee

- **Chair: Aisling Coffey**
- **Vice Chair: Anette O Callaghan**
- **Secretary: Fiachra McCabe**

SIGA Vision, Mission and Objectives

- **September 2016 SIGA members developed a vision, mission and objectives for this SIGA term aligned with the IASW strategic plan.**

SIGA Vision Statement (our idealised future)

- 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

(What is our purpose, what are we seeking to do to achieve this vision?)

- 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

(How will we pursue our mission to achieve our vision?)

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.

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 with information updates and discussion on many issues affecting social work with older persons including the ADM 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 and the Integrated Care Programme and the establishment of integrated care teams in each CHO.

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.

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

- SIGA members Mary Walsh and Deirdre Mc Nally kindly wrote a brief two paragraph piece on the **role of social work with older persons** in their respective settings. These are available on IASW website.
- **SIGA annual conference** planned for 10.11.17. The topic centres on the promotion of excellence in working with those affected by dementia and their families. Planning underway and venue booked.

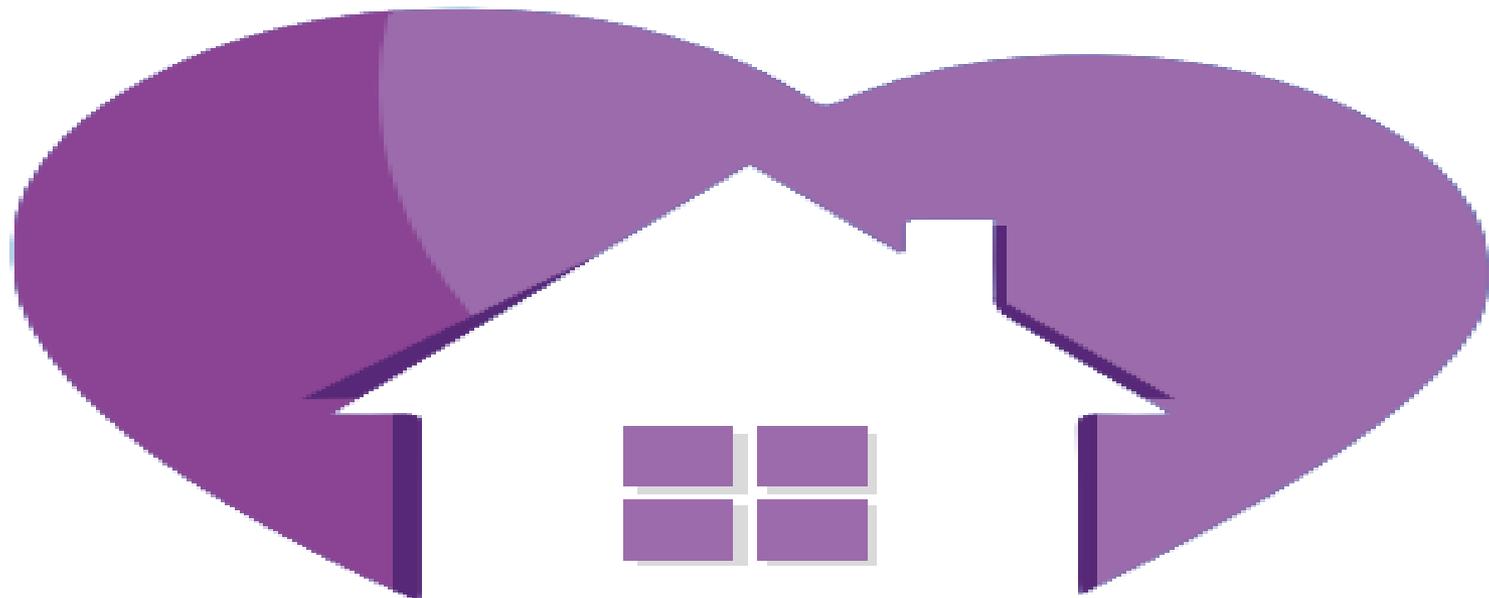
4) Advocacy / representation on the needs of older persons from a social work perspective

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.



Campaigners are also looking for immediate investment in homecare



“ I’D PREFER TO STAY AT HOME
BUT I DON’T HAVE A CHOICE ”

**MEETING OLDER PEOPLE’S
PREFERENCE FOR CARE:
POLICY, BUT WHAT ABOUT PRACTICE?**

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

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 the Minister 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.

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

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 presented on the IIG at the May 2017 SIGA meeting

2017-2018 SIGA Term

- SIGA needs competent talented professionals to lead it
- Open to all grades
- There is great learning involved in being an **active member** of the professional association – CORU CPD
- By being involved, you **keep informed**, you receive **support** and **influence the future of Social Work in Ireland**.
- Time commitment – attendance at SIGA meetings bi monthly, participation in brief teleconferences in between meetings, working on pieces of work (readings, assisting in preparing submissions, representing the social work voice on issues affecting older people, conference preparation and organising)

Upcoming Areas to Influence

- Statutory Home Care Consultation
- Safeguarding Policy Consultation
- Assisted Decision Making Act

Election of 2017-2018 SIGA Committee

