

**2017-  
2018**

**Irish Association of Social Workers  
Annual Report**

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

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## Board & Council Members 2017 - 2018

### List of Board Members

	Chair – Frank Browne Treasurer – Aine McGuirk Joe McCarthy Hilda Loughran Ruth Murray	Vice Chair – John Brennan Anette O’Callaghan Elizabeth Hamilton Conor Boksberger Zoe Linnane
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### Special Interest, Affiliate & Associate Group Representatives

	Ageing (SIGA)	Aisling Coffey
	Children & Families	Maria McGloughlin & Kate Gillen
	Child/Adolescent Mental Health (CAMHS)	Eoin Barry
	Southern Region	Joe McCarthy & Pearl Doyle
	Social Workers in Disability (SWID)	Aoife Timothy & Claire Convery
	Social Workers in Probation	Saragh McGarrigle
	Adult Mental Health (SWAMH)	Eileen NiShuilleabhain
	Primary Care	Eadoin NiBhrion
	Retired Members	Pat Waldron
	Foster Care	Cahal McHale
	Practitioner Researcher Group	Sarah Donnelly
	New Social Workers	Group Closed Sept’17
	Social Workers & Migration	Susan Lewandowski
	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

Firstly, on behalf of our Board I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the IASW in whatever way in the past year.

IASW has been the **voice for social work in Ireland for 47 years** since it was founded in 1971. Sometimes we can take things for granted because it seems that somehow things will go on as they always have. But the reality is that it was the vision and commitment of a dedicated group of social workers who laid the

foundations for our Association. It was especially the volunteerism of many members who give of their time and income to ensure that it both continued to thrive and adhere to the values of our profession, which is captured in our **Mission Statement**:

***“The IASW seeks to enable social workers to continually improve the quality of their practice and to promote the social work profession in the Republic of Ireland.”***

But our reason for doing this is to ensure that we can play our part as social workers to proactively support those we work with to rebuild their lives or as stated in the title of our most recent journal;

### ***Social Work: Putting together the broken pieces of our lives***

I hope when you get the opportunity to read our IASW annual report that you will appreciate that while all our aims and objectives for the year have not been completed, we have made considerable progress. In relation to our **Strategic Objectives**, I can report that progress has been made in each of the key areas

1. **Ensuring the sustainable development of the IASW**, as the professional body supporting and representing the social work profession in the Republic of Ireland.
  - a. Behind the scenes much work, as highlighted by our Treasurer Aine has been done to improve the financial management of our resources. We have a robust budgeting system in place now and as a Board, we are better placed to plan the key priorities for future investment. I am pleased to say that we have for the first time in a number of years managed to balance our books.
  - b. A major cause of concern was the cost of the Fitness to Practice insurance policy that is so important for members. Again, we managed to secure the best possible quote that provides the essential cover required but minimises the cost to members.
  - c. Membership continues to be a key priority and while we have managed to stabilise our membership, we do have much work to do in this area. Increasing our membership, minimising fee increases but ensuring that we have the resources and personnel to meet the needs of a greater membership remains a challenge.
2. **Improving the standards and quality of professional social work practice** and (3). **Facilitating social workers to meet the CPD requirements of registration**
  - a. As you will see from Cliona’s report in particular, much work has been done in promoting reflective practice, supervision and prioritising CPD events that will enhance practice. Board and Council members have played their part too by been part of HSE clinical programme working groups and have attended Health and Social Care Professional workshops just to name a few.
4. **Increasing access to information and support** for social workers
  - a. The IASW office managed capably by Danielle fields 100’s of calls a month and Board members and others have followed up with providing additional advice and support. IASW has recently invested significantly in redeveloping our website, which members will hopefully appreciate in the months ahead.
5. **Enhancing the public profile and perception of social work**
  - a. IASW is developing a communications strategy and Conor has met with Council members to get their feedback and support with the future strategy. While as Chair I have had the opportunity to engage with the media and have been supported in this by several members, it has often been a reactive engagement rather than a more proactive one. This is something IASW plans to address.

- b. IASW's journals are now available on (HSE Lenus) Open Access after a short time delay, and will allow the work of our authors to be disseminated widely.
- c. IASW has proactively used social media and has an active FACEBOOK and Twitter account

#### **6. Using social work expertise to influence the development of local, national and international policy and practice**

- a. This is a crucial area for IASW and by in large IASW has been able to nominate a member with the right skill set to represent the Association on all key legislative and policy initiatives that we were asked to do. Again, IASW wants to be more proactive and partner up more with the relevant advocacy groups to influence policy and practice in the interest of the most vulnerable in society
- b. IASW meets at regular intervals with key stakeholders such as: TUSLA, CORU, the Health and Social Care Professionals Alliance, the Health and Social Care Professionals Unit, HSE National Directors, HSE social work managers and advocacy groups.
- c. John has highlighted in his report the significant work that the International Affairs Committee, has done over the past year with partner organisations to plan for the 2018 Global Social Work and Social Development Conference "Environmental Sustainability and Development."

While much has been done, challenges remain, no more so than the ongoing challenge to ensure every vulnerable child and adult has access to the intervention of a professionally qualified social worker. I am confident that IASW will pursue this objective above all.

**Finally**, as the departing Chair of IASW and in partnership with our Board, Council and all members, I have carried with pride the baton of promoting excellence in practice and striving for quality services for those we work with. I have been an IASW member since I started working as a social worker in Ireland, following my first supervision meeting with my then manager. She handed me an **IASW application form** and explained to me why she believed it was important to be a member. I have no doubt that there will always be social workers willing and able to take the baton from us when the time comes. But sometimes we do have to have the conversation (that my manager had with me), with our social work colleagues so as to **encourage the many gifted social workers to play their part.**

We are most definitely **stronger together** and I wish you all the best for the future.



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Frank Browne  
**Chairperson**

**Company Secretary**  
Danielle McGoldrick

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. 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 & Council meetings
- Ensure effective communication with members occurs
- Prepare minutes, and check minutes with Chair and circulate
- Prepare relevant CRO forms i.e. B1, B10, CT1, etc.

## **Treasurer**

Aine McGuirk

The role of the Treasurer is to provide financial governance regarding the work and activities of the IASW, to advise the board on financial matters such as new projects and cash flow, and to oversee the budgets and accounts. Over the past year, I have liaised closely with the Chairman on all aspects of the finances and made recommendations to the Board in consultation with the office manager. John Brennan has continued to assist me with banking authorisations. The office (Danielle) does a great job in managing the Associations finances and I acknowledge her contribution in this area here.

A number of projects relevant to the financial administration of the IASW were completed this year:

- With other Board members (Frank Browne, John Brennan, Elizabeth Hamilton) we successfully negotiated a better deal on the Fitness to Practice policy formerly managed through Frank Glennon Ltd. The policy currently is placed with ARC Legal Assistance Ltd through Arachas Corporate Brokers Ltd. We will keep the all insurances under review to insure for members the best policy at the best price.
- The Office (Danielle) has been upskilled in the financial governance of the organisation by the installation of SAGE on the system and linked training in the use of the package. The Office can now provide financial reports quickly and easily and will move forward with a financial budgeting scheme during this year.
- The upgraded website brings additional benefits in the areas of membership payments and CPD course payments.
- We employed a part time office assistant for a number of months to help with the significant work that is carried out in the association's office on a daily basis.
- 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 2017 has been audited by John Meade (the appointed Auditors) and is presented by him at the AGM for adoption by the membership on 10th May 2018. This audit shows that the association is in a healthy financial position and we have generated a small surplus this year.

Going forward this healthy financial position can be maintained and improved in a number of ways. Prudent budgeting and good governance are key to this. However, the life blood of the organisation is the membership and maintaining current members numbers and more especially increasing membership take up is the basic key to a healthy professional association. The more members we have the easier it is to keep individual member costs down while providing a good service to members and representing the profession of Social Work appropriately in Ireland.

I thank John Meade's Office for their assistance in supporting the Association's Office and for the 2017 Financial Audit.

## Office Report

Danielle McGoldrick

The 2017/2018 term has been an extremely busy year for the association. Since the 2017 AGM, outside of my day-to-day tasks, I have also lead out on the following projects and participated in various training courses:

1. GDPR Compliance Training
2. Role of the Company Secretary Training
3. Training and implementation on SAGE 50 accounting package
4. Tender process and development of the new IASW website, which included the development of a new CMS (website launched March 2018)
5. Tender process and selection of IASW financial auditors

From June to December I will be working on the following:

- Developing a policy review schedule for the Board of Directors
- Updating and reviewing the Office Manual
- Developing GDPR Compliance Policies
- Developing a Finance Manual for the Office Manager & Treasurer
- Additional SAGE 50 training i.e. preparation of Budgets, Reports, etc.
- Participation in SWSD in the RDS in July of this year

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 28 CPD events have been planned and delivered including conferences (SIG & CPD Officer led), seminars and workshops;
- The majority of events were held in Dublin (17) (more than half of the membership is Dublin based). Events were also held in Athlone, Kilkenny, Galway and Cork (11);
- In addition, seminars on *CPD & the Requirements of Registration* have been provided;
- An increased number of interdisciplinary events and national conferences were co-ordinated with CPD officers from other Health and Social Care Professions;

The CPD Officers Network commissioned training on reflective practice which 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 and includes promotion of events through e-mail, Facebook, the IASW newsletter and [www.iasw.ie](http://www.iasw.ie). The nationwide events celebrating World Social Work Day 2018 is a good example of 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, Twitter and Facebook with news about the IASW and its work. This included 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 and promoting positive stories about social work. The CPD Officer is an active member of the HSE Health and Social Care Professions Advisory Group and worked on the subgroup responsible for the development and launch of the first National Health and Social Care Professions Day on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2018.

A key element of the CPD role is to **provide information and advice** to social workers in relation to 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. The changes to the CPD Standard and Requirements during summer 2017 means that the requirements are now articulated for a 12-month period and the audit has been suspended. The impact of these changes has led to confusion for many social workers as the messages from CORU and the SWRB change. In response, the IASW CPD Folder has been updated and member mails circulated summarising the key changes for our members. The member only CPD section of the website was kept up to date as new information emerged. Seminars on CPD have also been provided. These fora provide 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 SWRB CPD Standards and Requirements, the Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics for Social Workers and related matters have been brought to CORU both verbally and in writing. Key ongoing concerns continue include the suspension of the audit process and implications of same, CORU communication with social workers, 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.

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

#### **Foster Care SIG**

Cahal McHale

**Chairperson:** Cahal McHale    **Vice Chairperson:** Derek Hanley    **Secretary:** Harold Barber

*The Social Workers in Foster Care (SWIFC) Special Interest Group of the IASW aims to provide its members with a forum where Social Workers, in the area of Foster Care, can express relevant professional perspectives and advocate on behalf of children in Foster Care.*

It has been a very busy year for SWIFC since the passing of the motion at last year's IASW AGM to reinforce the IASW board's mandate to lobby Government, specifically the Minister, on the recommendations set out in "*Foster Care: Envisioning the Future*" published in March 2017. The committee have held seven teleconferences as the main means of communication. In addition, one face-to-face meeting was held to coincide with the IFCA National Conference in Tullow last September. Other specific purpose meetings of committee members, referred to below, also took place.

- SWIFC representatives met with officials in the Department of Children and Youth Affairs in July. It was understood at that time the Minister's preference was for the establishment of an Open Policy

Debate on foster care. However, since then the review of the Child Care Act 1991 has been advanced through an Open Policy Debate and while these initiatives are to be welcomed it is believed that a working group on foster care is also essential to address the critical deficits in this area.

Subsequently SWIFC have had discussions with the Irish Foster Care Association (IFCA) to seek support for the setting up a Government-led working group on foster care and members of the SIG presented a workshop on the subject at the IFCA National Conference last September. Following that workshop a paper was produced by the presenters drawing on feedback from that workshop. That paper was recently published in the spring edition of the journal "Foster".

A meeting between Tusla's Lead for Alternative Care and SWIFC members took place at the IASW office in March to garner support for the setting up a working group on foster care. During the meeting feedback was received on developments within Tusla on a number of the elements raised within the discussion document and it was agreed that further similar meetings would be arranged in the future to review progress.

- **Other activities**

SWIFC contributed to an IASW submission in respect of the Government's consultation on the review of the 1991 Child Care Act. The submission was collated by the Children and Families' SIG. The Children's Right's Alliance also sought input from interested parties for their submission on the subject and the SWIFC Chairperson represented IASW at that consultation meeting. Many common themes emerged at the meeting including discussion on the negative impact for children of our current adversarial system. A number of participants called for more collaborative approaches, which have been successfully adopted in other jurisdictions, to be explored as a central part of the review.

- The title of this year's Annual SWIFC Conference currently being organised is: "*Adoption from Foster Care - Improving Social Work Practice Through Exploring Research Findings*". This joint UCD - SWIFC/IASW initiative is returning to the topic of our 2016 conference which looked at Adoption from Foster Care. This is an important area currently drawing increasing attention in the light of significant legislative developments. Efforts to hold the SWIFC AGM during the Conference are also being actively explored but the logistics of coordinating both may not be realistic.
- Following discussions at IASW Council meetings pursued during the year by the CIAA (Council of Irish Adoption Agencies) on the implications of the 2017 Adoption Amendment Act, the SWIFC Chairperson had discussions with the CIAA executive. One of the options being considered is the broadening out of SWIFC's terms of reference to include Adoption. This issue will be considered further at the next SWIFC AGM the details of which are to be agreed shortly.
- The Secretary and the committee are currently reviewing the SWIFC membership list and have considered options for updating the current list and ensuring compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation.

## **Southern Region**

Joe McCarthy

The SIG Southern Branch has remained active despite a few "hiccups" in the past 6 months. It has now been rejuvenated/ revitalized with very committed and enthusiastic officers taking the reins for the next 12 months. Please see below.

However, the Southern Branch continued to make the IASW's presence felt with the organisation of several successfully organised CPD events, always with a good attendance.

The IASW has a significant presence and plays a very important role in the organisation of the National Child Protection and Welfare Social Work Conference, which takes place in UCC every 2 years. In October 2017 the 6th such Conference took place with the chosen theme being; " Future directions for Child Protection and Welfare: where to and why? " The IASW was well represented by local SIG members Rachel Mc Cormack, Terry Bradshaw. Again, the event proved a big success with over 260 people in attendance, which includes practitioners, academics, students among others...from statutory, voluntary, community and various NGOs. The previous day 'masterclasses 'were held for over 60 people, presented by Carmel Halton and Harry Ferguson. This event was very ably chaired by Cliona (CPD officer). This event sponsored by IASW. This national conference is made possible because it is a shared initiative between UCC, Tusla and IASW. Long may it continue!

One of the most significant events of the year was the annual celebration of the international Social Work day (very generously sponsored by the National office). "The celebration went very well, with an attendance of 40-50 people at any given time. The 4 presentations, all linked to the theme...Promoting Sustainability in the Community and environment, were very well received:

1. Ger Philips of Springboard (Child and Family Agency, Cork) "Sustaining Communities.....the Impact of Government policies and priorities"  
With his vast and rich experience, Ger highlighted the importance of preventative and supportive work, based on essential Social Work values, which facilitate and enable empowerment and independence.
2. Bernadette Connolly of The Cork Environmental Forum addressed "Sustaining our Environment".  
Bernadette outlined how the preservation of our environment ought to be central to all our activities/choices, whether it be as a Social Worker, or as a private individual. We really have no choice but to sustain/preserve our environment should penetrate all aspects of our life and work. Her passion for life all life was infectious.
3. Professor Barry O Sullivan of UCC gave a presentation of what is currently very topical and relevant...."  
Social Media...is it sustainable? How do we protect our children?" He held everyone's attention, as you could hear a pin drop, as he outlined how Social Media (in its various manifestations) works and impinges on all aspects of everyday life...and on all of us His presentation could have lasted for hours! He helped raise our awareness...not just knowledge. He will undoubtedly be called upon again, as he just wetted our appetite!
4. Susan Mackey and her colleagues Jacqueline Aloo and Wisdom Ochors, gave us a presentation on: "In a multi-cultural Ireland sustaining integration." Jackie (a qualified Social Worker) and Wisdom (Social Work student), both gave a most courageous, interesting, enlightening and informative, and eye-opening account of life as Asylum seekers, residents of Direct Provision, and now residents in Ireland. They provided us with much food for thought, as we were left with the challenge of how to make Ireland of the "Cead Mile Failte" a reality.

Throughout the morning we were awoken from our slumber and entertained and challenged musically by Louise mc Cormick ably assisted by Henrietta O'Meara, great stuff!

Also, throughout the celebration, Catherine Crowley and Chantelle NG, distributed over 15 "spot prizes". To win a prize a question had to be answered on Environmental related matters. A big 'thank you' to all who donated gifts ranging from free admission to the upcoming IASW Conference, free entry to Camden Fort, Crosshaven, lunch voucher for 2 to Gluchsman restaurant, UCC, numerous books and even a Donald Trump calendar!

...and a hugely sincere expression of gratitude to all who helped organise the day.....as well as those already mentioned: Mary T Kenny, Rachel Mc Cormack, Shane O Meara Ruth Murray, Kate Power, Terry Bradshaw, Zoe Linnane, Wisdom apologies if forgetting someone...!

After the celebration a SIG (Southern Branch) meeting was held with the attendance of 15 people. All present expressed great interest and motivation.

After an interesting discussion on the relevance and importance of the IASW, as a voice for Social Work in Ireland, the following accepted these roles for the next year:

Chairperson.... Pearl Doyle

Vice Chair.....Kate Power

Secretary.....Catherine Crowley

Vice Secretary.....Ellen Sheehan.

It was considered wise to select a vice for both roles in order to "share the load and responsibility". We wish them all well and are very confident that they will make a very significant contribution to the ongoing growth and development of the IASW. "

### **Adult Mental Health SIG**

Eileen NiShuilleabhain

**S.W.A.M.H** had 3 national meetings this year and 3 teleconferences. In this past year S.W.A.M.H has experienced a period of transition with a number of older members leaving SWAMH and new members joining. In this period of transition, the SWAMH committee have undertaken a review of all the protocols relating to SWAMH and have agreed goals and tasks for the group moving forward. To that end, S.W.A.M.H have set up a number of subgroups to focus on a variety of areas of development to include- Correspondence, media feedback/promotion (Facebook/Twitter/IASW website updates), CPD planning group, and Practice based research, Position Papers.

The S.W.A.M.H Committee have agreed to develop two positions papers per year and promote links with the National Mental Health Manager's group to ensure forward planning of position papers in line with developments nationally in Adult Mental Health Services.

### **Group Activity this Year:**

**RESEARCH/SURVEY:** This year S.W.A.M.H prepared a survey to collate data on the nature and range of interventions currently delivered by our discipline nationally. This project focused on the involvement of adult mental health social workers in the provision of 'psychosocial interventions'. Psychosocial interventions can be used to describe individual, family or group interventions that put a primary emphasis on the psychological and social factors rather than biological factors of recovery.

This survey acknowledges that anecdotally, we know adult mental health social workers are providing a range of psycho-social interventions to individuals and families. However, it is noted that this practice often goes unacknowledged and undocumented due to a lack of nationally collated data and research on the practice of mental health social workers in Ireland.

Through collating this data S.W.A.M.H hopes to increase the visibility of our role, champion all the great therapeutic work that is being undertaken around the country in mental health social work and learn from each other as a specialist professional group. Through the analysis of this data S.W.A.M.H also hopes to learn more about the needs of our profession in ways which will inform further development of evidence-

based practice as social workers operating in a multi-disciplinary setting. Our committee were delighted with the survey response. 116 respondents replied in the initial rotation of the survey. S.W.A.M.H plan to roll out the survey again for anyone who did not yet complete it, and this will then close in May 2018 for data collation.

#### **CPD Event:**

This year S.W.A.M.H facilitated a very successful CPD event on April 13<sup>th</sup> in St. Patrick's Hospital with over 80 attendees. The event was titled "**Psychosocial Interventions in Social Work – championing our Therapeutic skills**". The Key note speaker Dr. Ruth Allen is Chief Executive of the British Association of Social Work and chair of Social Care Strategic Network for Mental Health. This conference highlighted the value of social work in championing social issues as well as psychological issues for service users and their families. The conference supported Social Work practitioners to revisit their core training in therapeutic work and psychosocial interventions and to hold on to our role as 'agitators of change' within the systems in which we work. Overall the feedback from the event was very positive with workshops on the day also looking at some innovative developments taking place nationally such as Perinatal Group Work, Trauma Informed Social Work Practice and a workshop from Ruth Allen herself.

**Position Paper:** This year SWAMH also responded to legislation concerning Deprivation of Liberty submitting a position paper on this during the year.

**AGM:** Our AGM was held on April 13<sup>th</sup>. All memberships and roles, existing and new, were ratified.

**Membership on SWAMH Committee:** Eileen Ní Shuilleabháin, Lorraine Kelly, Kerry Cuskelly, Orla Prendergast, Aidan Cooney, Paul Guckian, Anna Carroll, Sylvia Cahill, Jim Campbell, Maria Egan, Gabrielle Fitzpatrick, Linda Curran, Elaine Donnelly, Pauline Collins, Sinead McKenna, Jim Lane.

**Chair:** Eileen Ní Shuilleabháin, **Vice Chair:** Aidan Cooney **Secretary** Elaine Donnelly.

We are very much looking forward to working together this coming year.

#### **Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services SIG**

Eoin Barry

Throughout the country, this has been a challenging year for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services. As a Special Interest Group, we have been busy working to improve the services provided and we continue to organise continued professional development for our members on a regular basis.

#### **SIG Meetings and Continued Professional Development**

Since the last IASW AGM we have had three national meetings. Each meeting includes a business meeting to address any issues arising and a CPD presentation. Our CPD this year has included detailed information on Guardianship Act 2015 and its implications for CAMHS. We received a talk on the role of the Occupational Therapist on multi-disciplinary teams. At our recent January meeting we had a talk on the importance of relationships in the management of eating disorders.

#### **Children First**

Our members have brought their expert knowledge and experience to committees around the country implementing the new Children First Guidelines and have worked to develop Child Safety Statements. The new guidelines and the introduction of mandatory reporting required significant input from social workers in addition to their normal clinical workload.

## Standard Operating Procedure

This year the Standard Operating Procedure for CAMHS is due to be reviewed and updated. Over the past six months we have worked with the committee to review and update this important policy. Our SIG produced a submission for the group and we will continue to work on this document until its publication later this year.

## Plan for 2018/2019

On June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018 we are planning to host a conference on Attachment. This event will be open to all and promises to be a valuable contribution to our understanding of Attachment Theory and the impact on our day to day work. We will hold a further national meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> of September with our AGM in January 2019.

Chairperson: Eoin Barry

IASW Council Representative: Lorraine O'Reilly

Secretary: Katie O'Sullivan

Vice Chair: Sharon Galligan

## Child & Family SIG

Maria McGloughlin

2017 was quite busy in spurts as we endeavored to keep the energy of the Special Interest Group alive - honestly meeting was not as regular as we would have liked however there were a number of activities that are worth noting.

In January a delegation (Maria McGloughlin, Joe McCarthy, & Donal O'Malley) met with Minister Katherine Zappone to highlight challenges facing social workers working within the Children & Families Sector. This meeting was very positive and marked the re-affirming of positive working relationships between the IASW and the Department of Children and Youth Affairs.

As a result of this meeting in September Maria McGloughlin & Kate Gillen participated in a small consultation group for social work professionals hosted by DCYA Social Work Specialist and PO within the Department of Children and Youth Affairs on the reform of the Child Care Act 1991 and provided input into how the current legislation is working from the views of front line professionals.

Also, in September Chairperson Maria McGloughlin presented at the open policy debate hosted by DCYA on the reform of the Child Care Act 1991- Maria gave a presentation attempting to relate the current legislation to real life cases as they are currently being managed through use of the 1991 Act.

In October Joe McCarthy was instrumental in organising a conference in conjunction with UCC & TUSLA on Child Protection. This was also attended by Maria McGloughlin

In November a delegation (Maria McGloughlin, Aoife Bairead, Joe McCarthy & Frank Browne) met with Fred McBride CEO Tusla to re-establish a working relationship between the IASW and Tusla. This was a very positive meeting which acknowledged the need for good communication between the IASW and Tusla to facilitate the development of positive working relationships between the two organisations which have at the core a commitment to the best outcomes for children and families.

So, as you can see, despite our small numbers of active members, there is scope for this group to make very significant impact on policy and practice through working with both the DCYA and Tusla senior management.

In this spirit, and in an effort to re-energize the Special Interest Group and get motivated for 2018, I would like to ask you to consider becoming more involved in 2018. The SIG will be making a written submission in respect of the new Child Care Act progressing further the work that has already been undertaken in 2017. Additionally, 2018 is likely to see further scrutiny of social work practice within child protection on the publication of reports from the Charlton Commission. It is important that a cohesive, responsible response is provided to any concerns raised by this report. Furthermore, as TUSLA continues to develop, and grow, the role of social work both within the agency and within partner agencies will continue to require articulation and refining to ensure the best outcomes for vulnerable people who require the support of social work. Participation in the SIG allows for the voice of social workers, within this sector, to be strengthened, articulate, and both cohesive and diverse!

The dates for meetings in 2018 are as follows:

16th of May @ 6pm

17th of July @ 6pm

Please note - discussions were held with Fred McBride re: time being allowed from working day to participate in SIG/ IASW activities - we're currently scheduling meetings for 6pm but would like to be in a position to change that to a day time activity and for social workers with in TUSLA to be released from duties for participation - we would also like to hold meetings that involve some element of training or professional development - this will be on the agenda for 2018/19

### Primary Care SIG

Eadaoin NiBhrion

**Chair:** Éadaoin Ní Bhroin      **Vice Chair:** Michelle Losty      **Secretary:** Áine Delaney

**Training Officer:** Barbara McDonough

**Non-executive Members:** Louise Timmins, Catriona McMahan, Conor Fitzpatrick.

This report commences by thanking all committee members for their hard work and dedication to the SIG throughout the year. 2017/2018 has been a busy and successful year for the Primary Care Social Work SIG.

We have had four meetings since the last AGM which have taken place in Portarlinton, Balally twice and Wicklow Town Health Centres. We have three meetings scheduled for the remainder of the current committee year which will take place in Limerick City, Naas and The Meath Health Centres. Similar to last year there has been a CPD element to all our SIG meetings since the last AGM which have included presentations from a social worker based in a Direct Provision Centre and a planning session focussed on creating a new SIG / IASW article focussing on Primary Care Social Work. A CPD element is being incorporated into our upcoming SIG's which will include article reviews, a toolkit for working with people who hoard, and domestic, sexual and gender-based violence training.

This year the SIG committee have once again committed to rotating the location of SIG meetings aiming to make them accessible to all Primary Care Social Workers nationally.

The current SIG Committee is in place since 23/10/17. We have met three times since the last AGM. Further SIG Committee Meetings are scheduled for April, July and September 2018 following the SIG meetings. The Chair/Vice Chair of the SIG has also attended all IASW Council meetings and provided reports to represent the voice of Primary Care Social Workers nationally.

## **Work undertaken by the Primary Care Social Work Special Interest Group during the 2017/2018 Committee Period:**

- Liaison with the HSE Primary Care Manager Group regarding the withdrawal of the National Primary Care Social Work leaflet.
- Annual update of the Primary Care Social Work database.
- Focusing on professional development of social work practice it was decided to author a new article focussing on the role of a Primary Care Social Worker in practise. This article is being written by a subgroup of five Primary Care Social Workers and will be completed in the coming months.
- Regular 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 regular basis via the non-executive SIG members.
- Planning of 2017/2018 SIG training.
- Co working with the HSE Primary Care Managers Group / IASW on issues of mutual concern.
- Represent Primary Care Social Workers and the IASW at a conference facilitated by the Department of Public Expenditure & Reform under *A Programme for a Partnership Government* focusing on Prevention and Early Intervention Unit (PEIU).
- Feedback to the Professional Development Coordinator regarding IASW training opportunities offered in the current year.
- Represent the voice of Primary Care Social Workers and the IASW at a focus group on the Implementation of the Safeguarding Teams under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Persons at Risk of Abuse: National Policy and Procedures.

## **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 to update the database of SIG Members.
- Hold an AGM in September/October 2018.

## **Older Persons SIG**

Aisling Coffey

**Chair:** Aisling Coffey

**Vice Chair & Secretary:** Fiachra McCabe

**Committee Members:** John Brenan, Deirdre Mc Nally and Anne O Loughlin

SIGA members developed a vision, mission and objectives for this SIGA term aligned with the IASW strategic plan in 2016 which continue to guide our work.

## **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 2017-2018 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 generally meets **bi-monthly** in St Mary's Hospital. At these meetings there are 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.
  - National Clinical Programme for *Older People* (NCPOP) and the *Integrated Care Programme for Older Persons* (ICPOP)
  - The establishment of integrated care teams in each CHO and the role of social work on these teams.
  - The HSE review of "Safeguarding Vulnerable Persons at Risk of Abuse - National Policy and Procedures 2014"
  - Statutory Home Care Consultation
  - Living with Dementia
- ✓ 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
- ✓ SIGA was delighted to welcome the four newly appointed social workers to the Integrated Care Teams to SIGA and hopes that SIGA will be an ongoing source of support for them

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

#### **A) 2017 HSE Review of "Safeguarding Vulnerable Persons at Risk of Abuse - National Policy and Procedures" (2014).**

The IASW has held a firm commitment to ensuring the best possible social work service is available to vulnerable adults at risk of abuse. Even prior to this 2017 HSE national review, **Patrice Reilly** and I collated IASW member feedback on the implementation of this policy and submitted same to the HSE Safeguarding Office. This submission is available on the IASW website under submissions and representations.

This 2017 HSE review consultation process was undertaken in two phases:

1. This first phase concentrated on how the policy is experienced and working in practice for current users of the policy. There was a survey monkey questionnaire in May 2017 designed to capture this data. Many SIGA members made individual submissions at this time.

2. The second phase involved formal written submissions from stakeholder groups / individuals and direct face-to-face consultation via focus group meetings for more specific feedback and consultation. The Chair of SIGA via the IASW made a formal written submission in September 2017 and numerous SIGA members attended the focus groups run nationally from September 2017 to November 2017.

## **B) Home Care Services**

During the summer of 2017, Ministers Simon Harris and Jim Daly, TD announced a public consultation on home care services.

Prior to the launch of the consultation process, the Chair of SIGA participated as part of a multi-agency group, to publish the "Discussion Document on the Consultation Process for the Establishment of a Statutory Homecare Scheme" document sent to Jim Daly, Minister of State at the Department of Health with special responsibility for Mental Health and Older People on 19/04/17. This discussion document is available on the IASW website under submissions and representations.

Following the announcement of the consultation on home care services, the Chair of SIGA made a submission on behalf of the group on 03/10/17. This submission is available on the IASW website under submissions and representations.

Through SIGA, the IASW was part of a multiagency group which welcomed the additional €37 million for home care in the budget on 10/10/17. This multi-agency press release is available on the IASW website under submissions and representations.

## **C) Dementia Diagnostic Project Steering Group**

The chair of SIGA is currently representing the profession on the National Dementia Office (NDO) Dementia Diagnostic Project Steering Group. The NDO commenced a project to develop dementia diagnostic services nationally. The project aims to establish a standardised approach to the assessment and diagnosis of dementia across primary, secondary and tertiary services, ensuring timely diagnosis and intervention for people with dementia. The project is linked to the National Dementia Strategy priority action area relating to timely diagnosis and early intervention. The Chair of SIGA has attended two meetings to date and we keep SIGA members and Council updated

## **D) Public Consultation on Draft Legislation relating to Deprivation of Liberty**

Minister for Health, Simon Harris, TD, and Minister of State for Disability Issues, Finian McGrath, TD, opened a public consultation on draft legislation relating to deprivation of liberty on 08/12/17. The draft legislative provisions outline proposed safeguards for older people, persons with a disability and certain categories of people with mental health issues to ensure that they are not unlawfully deprived of their liberty in residential facilities. The Chair of SIGA made an IASW submission on the draft legislation on 12/03/18 which is available on the IASW website under submissions and representations.

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

- ✓ The **SIGA Annual Conference "Promoting Excellence in Dementia Care"** took place on 10/11/17. The conference was opened by Helen Rochford Brennan, the Chair of the European Dementia Working Group who spoke of living with dementia. Emer Begley, Senior Project Manager at the National Dementia Office informed attendees on The National Dementia Strategy. Anne O Loughlin, Principal Social Worker and SIGA member, presented a paper on the Proposed Deprivation of Liberty Legislative safeguards. In the afternoon there were three parallel workshops focusing on

dementia and loss, seeing and shaping the world WITH the person living with dementia and the role of music therapy in dementia care. Evaluation feedback was extremely positive with attendees commenting favorably on how the knowledge and skills gained will benefit their practice. The conference would not have been the success it was without the dedicated organising committee comprising **Fiachra McCabe, John Brennan, Deirdre McNally, Anne O Loughlin and Geraldine Healy**.

- ✓ At the SIGA AGM on 26/07/17, we enjoyed a **presentation from the Alzheimer's Society Dementia Advisors**, Joanne Brennan and Ana Dalton. Thanks to **Clodhna Beaumont** in the Mater for securing these speakers
- ✓ On 28/11/17, Brian Lambe, Services Manager from **Alone** kindly spoke of their agency's enhanced services for older persons at national level.
- ✓ The Chair of SIGA represented the social work profession from July 2017 to January 2018 on a multidisciplinary group working on the newly launched **HSE HSCP Professional Supervision programme**.

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

##### **A) Home Care Campaigning**

As outlined under section 2 above, SIGA has been active this term in campaigning on the need for enhanced resources for home care for older persons and younger adults with a disability.

##### **B) National Clinical Programme for Older People (NCPOP)**

**John Brennan** remains engaged as IASW rep on the National Clinical Programme for Older People (NCPOP). John kindly provides updates in writing on his activities at each SIGA meeting.

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. There is a literature review on interdisciplinary working in progress.

The nine ICPOP 'Pioneer' Sites for Integrated Care are continuing to develop. Four of these teams have a social worker. **John Brennan and Patrice Reilly** have convened a working group comprising of these four social workers and we are delighted to welcome these newly appointed social workers to SIGA.

##### **C) Loneliness Taskforce Submission.**

Senator Keith Swanick in collaboration ALONE formed the Loneliness Taskforce to coordinate a response to the loneliness and social isolation in Ireland. As part of the Loneliness Taskforce submissions in the form of recommendations for Government were sought. SIGA Members **Deirdre McNally and Geraldine Healy** drew on their professional knowledge and experience to develop a concise, well-informed submission which made recommendations to address loneliness in the short, medium and longer-term on 06/04/18. This submission is available on the IASW website under submissions and representations.

It has been my pleasure chairing SIGA this term.

## Probation SIG

Saragh McGarrigle

The Probation Special Interest Group has re-established, with a membership of twenty-two. The profile of the membership, while primarily frontline staff, also has representatives from management levels. We continue to promote the SIG with the aim of increasing our membership.

The Probation Special Interest Group held its AGM on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2018, where a new executive was elected as well as a number of new members welcomed. Prior to the AGM, Cliona Murphy, CPD officer from IASW gave a presentation on Continuous Professional Development, which was well received by all in attendance.

A number of key objectives for the coming twelve months were agreed at the AGM, these include promoting social work registration with CORU among our colleagues, developing strategies to support each other with CPD requirements and continuing to actively participate at council level in the IASW.

With the energy of both new and experienced staff, the Probation Special Interest Group is well placed to grow in strength and potential over the next twelve months and we look forward to working with our social work colleagues in the IASW. I want to thank Danielle, Office Manager and Cliona CPD Officer in the IASW office for their ongoing support to the Probation SIG.

## Disability SIG

Aoife Timothy

Officers: Chairperson, Claire Convery  
Secretary, Ann O'Loughlin,  
Rep. at National Council, Aoife Timothy

Membership: SWID has 32 members. The group meets monthly. 2017-2018 saw strong attendance by members at meetings along with high levels of engagement.

### Highlights

#### Training and SWID Annual Conference

**SWID Conference 'Open Your Eyes: Balancing Relationships and Responsibilities' February 2018.** The morning sessions addressed the changing landscape for practitioners with the introduction **General Data Protection Regulation**. **There were** presentations from Hugh Jones, Chief Privacy Officer, Sytorus addressing the topic **'Will Social Work practice be changed forever?'** Hugh was followed by **Nicola Harrison** of Byrne Wallace Solicitors who spoke about **'GDPR - Information Sharing in the Social Work Context'**. **The afternoon session was dedicated to presentations on research and innovation: 'Sexuality, Disability and the Media'** by Sarah Harrington UCC, **'Building Research Capacity on a Social Work Team'** from Dr Sarah Donnelly, NRH Social Work Team and the final presentation was on **'ASD and Negotiating Social Space'** Diarmuid Heffernan and Kirsten Hurley, UCC & Autism Spectrum Consultancy.

**'Sibshops Programme Facilitation Training with Don Meyer' October 2017.** SWID with support from IASW national office organised this two-day event. Don Meyer is recognised as a world leader in siblings and disabilities issues. The training was 48 professionals from a wide variety of organisations. This success of the event was reflected in positive feedback from the families, professional and siblings who participated in the event. Securing a facilitator and trainer of the calibre of Don Meyer was highlight for SWID. The hope of the SWID committees is that the impact and legacy of this event will be experienced by siblings of children with disabilities across the country in the years to come as they attend Sibshops Programmes.

## National Policy Development

**SWID made a submission to the HSE review of the policy on Safeguarding of Vulnerable Persons at Risk of Abuse National Policy and Procedures.** SWID welcomed the introduction of a national policy to safeguard vulnerable adults. The SIWD submission provided a detailed critique of the experience of social worker in disability and their service users under this policy. The submission provided suggestions and examples of how the policy can be improved. SWID also contributed to the IASW submission.

**SWID made a submission to the Department of Health National Consultations on the Statutory Homecare.** This is an area of concern to SWID members who routinely engage with service users on securing adequate and safe provision of Home Care Packages and other in-home supports.

## **Representation at National Level**

SWID has a representative on the Pediatric, Health and Social Care Professionals Expert Group, under the HSE Integrated Care Programme.

SWID members are also representatives on the Federation of Voluntary Bodies.

SWID has a representative on the National Clinical Programme for Rehabilitation Medicine.

## **Practitioner Research Group**

Sarah Donnelly

This SIG closed in April of 2018.

## **Newly Qualified Social Workers**

Claire Costello

This SIG closed in September 2017.

## **Social Work & Migration**

Susan Mackey

**The Social Work and Migration SIG** held our first AGM in May 2017.

There are currently 85 members in our group and we have 7 Committee members. The large increase in our wider membership over the past year (by almost 50%) indicates the interest and need for information and support in this area of social work.

- The SIG includes social workers from a wide variety of settings including child protection and welfare, disability, family support, medical, mental health, primary care, NGOs and academia. 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.
- This SIG aims to be a network that will promote and support best practice at individual, agency and community levels, and will facilitate practitioners to work in a systemic, reflective, self-aware and informative way with people from migrant backgrounds.
- We also aim to influence the role of social workers in all areas to ensure that they are aware of how migration issues might affect service users.

We provide a forum through our seminars and annual conference to share resources, facilitate discussion and post resources for social workers on our IASW webpage

<https://www.iasw.ie/group.aspx?contentid=6576> .

Additionally, we use media and education to advocate for progressive social policies and services relevant to migrants, through drawing on the experiences of its members and research evidence.

<b>Special Interest Group: Migration &amp; Social Work</b>	<b>Contact information</b>
Chair: Susan Mackey	E/mail: susan@nascireland.org
Hon Sec: Deborah Chemhere	E/mail: deborah.chemhere@tusla.ie
Vice Chair Colletta Dalikeni	E/mail: Colletta.Dalikeni@dkit.ie
Vice Secretary Brian Davis	E/mail: Brian.davis@hse.ie
Committee member Sean Lynch	E/mail: seanlynch555@gmail.com
Committee member Maeve Foreman	E/mail: <a href="mailto:MFOREMAN@tcd.ie">MFOREMAN@tcd.ie</a>
Committee member Carol Carr	

**Please note: we circulate the attendance**

**list from each event as proof of attendance for CPD purposes.**

### **Update on the year's activities**

- SIG 1st Annual Conference.

We held our first conference of the Migration and Social work SIG on the 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2017 in University College Cork - **Title: 'Diversity in Practice'**. The event was sold out and proved very successful. We received excellent feedback overall from attendees.

The key speaker was Claudia Bernard, Professor in the Department of Social, Therapeutic and Community Studies, Goldsmiths, University of London, who spoke of key factors in social work assessments with minority ethnic families. She focused on child protection work in the UK and learnings taken from this.

Two of our Committee members, Deborah Chemhere, Senior Social Work Practitioner, Tusla Child and Family Agency and Brian Davis, Social Worker, Baleskin Reception Centre for refugees also gave presentations on the work they do with refugees to promote resettlement in Ireland.

Two service users, Chantelle Murphy and Elisabeth Messou also presented on their own experiences of the Care and Aftercare systems, child protection services and Direct Provision.

The workshops in the afternoon comprised presentations from the Dr Mary Phelan, Interpreters and Translators Association of Ireland, Jeanette Taku of the Migrant Family Support Service, New Communities Partnership on intercultural work with migrant families in child protection services and Fiona Hurley, Legal Officer, Nasc Migrant and Refugee Rights Centre on legal immigration issues impacting service users. Each attendee received a certificate of attendance which they can use for their CPD portfolios.

It was clear from the conference that there is a pressing need for more debate and discussion amongst social workers in the area of work with migrants. Practitioners showed a key interest in promoting best practice in social work with migrant families and highlighted some of their concerns and learning needs. The conference discussion and feedback highlighted the complexity of issues arising for practitioners in this new area of social work and indicated a need for further support and training.

- Seminars

Unfortunately the seminar planned for 8<sup>th</sup> of Dec 2017, - a presentation from Dr Mary Phelan (Irish Translator & Interpreters Organisation) re the use of interpreters in social work was cancelled due to low uptake from members. This may be due to the time of year, as there was a large interest in the topic from the audience at our Oct 17 conference. Going forward, this learning will help us to plan our event dates at more suitable times for our members. We are seeking feedback from the wider SIG on this.

- Media & Awareness Raising

We have a designated person from the Committee working on an **online hub** where members of our group can share information and documents on social work and migration. This will be further developed in the upcoming year. We are also looking for more designated volunteers to support us in collating information. There was some interest from members of the SIG re advocating for improvements and greater regulation in the Interpreting industry. We are seeking more input from members on this, (i.e. a designated volunteer/subgroup) and suggestions for work on further social justice issues.

- SIG Representation at outside Events

We had membership representation at a number of events throughout the year. Four Committee members attended a conference held by the Children's Rights Alliance in June 2017, which discussed the implementation of the McMahon Working Group's recommendations to improve conditions in Direct Provision. Presentations were made by NGOs, academics and Government officials including the Heads of Asylum and Immigration Services (INIS). Members also attended World Refugee Day events in June including Nasc's Safe Passage day with presentations from Afghan and Syrian refugees on family reunification and a conference held by UCD and the Irish Refugee Council 'Responding to the Needs of Refugee Children and Young People'.

Our Vice-Chair attended an event on behalf of the Migration SIG, "Implementing the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty", organised by the Clare Intercultural Network. This was organised by the Intercultural and Diversity Education Centre-Ireland (IDEC-Ireland) in partnership with the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC) in Ennis, on Tuesday the 20th of March 2018. Topics covered included:

1. Different responses to migration and its long term inclusion/exclusion consequences for all in society
2. The role of public service rights equality duty and civic society

Speakers included Senator Alice Mary Higgins, Robin Hannan and Deirdre Toomey and discussions were facilitated using the 'world cafe' style.

A member also attended the EU Mutual Learning Programme in Gender Equality seminar in Athens, Greece on 21-22<sup>nd</sup> February 2018 and wrote the Comments Paper for Ireland. The seminar, on Support Services for Victims of Violence in Asylum and Migration – was attended by 14 EU countries and a full report, with comments papers from all countries represented, including Ireland, will shortly be available online.

### **The Social Work and Migration SIG – Financial Report, March 2018.**

In accordance with the IASW Rules & Byelaws [rule 3:2:7] The Social Work and Migration SIG does not hold any funds or bank accounts.

### **Activity/Plans for year ahead**

Two further seminars and a conference will be held this year. A number of other SIGs expressed an interest in doing a joint conference with us this year. We are seeking suggestions from members re the themes of these events and designated volunteers/subgroups to help organise these:

**Aug 27th 2018:** SIG Committee meeting 2.00-4.00

**Sept 14th 2018:** Conference 9.15 (registration) 10.00 (start)

**Oct 22nd 2018:** Seminar 2.00-4.00/SIG meeting 4.15-5.30

Three members of our SIG Committee will present a symposium at the Joint World Conference Social Work Conference (SWSD 2018 Social Work, Education and Social Development) on Wednesday, 04 July 2018.

Entitled "Contemporary social work research and practice with migrant & refugee families in Ireland", our speakers Brian Davis will talk about his work at Baleskin Reception Centre, Muireann Ni Raghallaigh will speak about key issues facing practitioners working with unaccompanied asylum seekers in Ireland and Susan Mackey will discuss preliminary findings of her PhD research with UCC/Nasc Migrant and Refugee Rights Centre on child protection social work with migrant families.

### Retired Social Workers Group

Pat Waldron

A group of Retired Social Workers based in Dublin meet every two months (1st Monday of the month) for lunch in Claytons Hotel, Ballsbridge from 12.30 to 2.30. They would always welcome new members. One of the highlights of the year was a special celebration in September for Margaret Horne (ex. Adelaide Hospital) and her twin sister Patricia of their 90th Birthdays. This was very generously hosted in the home of Hilda O'Connell (ex. Royal Victoria Eye & Ear Hospital). Hilda is a wonderful cook and presented a wonderful spread. Tribute speeches were made and responded to with many anecdotes of times past and the development of strategies to bring the profession to where it is today.

### Associate Group; the Irish Social Worker Journal

Frank Browne

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

I would like to **thank my colleagues on the IASW Journal Committee** who have assisted me in editing and reviewing all the submitted articles and book reviews. We have continued to work well together and despite our different locations we have used tele-conferencing and e/mail to effectively conduct our work. This involved reviewing all submitted articles and book reviews, as well as updating our journal guidelines and beginning the work to develop a peer reviewed element for future journals.

The Journal Committee has published a summer 2017 journal and most recently a spring 2018 journal. We hope that members enjoyed and found the articles and book reviews included, of interest and of relevance to their practice. We would encourage members to use the journal as a way to update their IASW/CORU CPD portfolio, by allocating CPD credits following their reading of the journals.

I would especially like to **thank IASW members who have taken the time to write articles or book reviews for the journal**. I hope that despite the many hours you have taken, you have found it as worthwhile an experience for yourself as I believe it is for all our members who read the articles and book reviews.

Finally, I would **encourage all members to consider writing an article for our journal**. Despite the time that it may take, it will offer you the opportunity to write about the quality social work practice that you and your colleagues are involved with. The Journal Committee will offer support and guidance as required. All articles published in the Irish Social Worker Journal will be available after six months 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. In addition, the Journal Committee would be delighted to facilitate the submission of a **peer reviewed article** with any potential author too.

## 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 almost exclusively engaged with partners from UCD, TCD, UCC, NUIG and the European Anti-Poverty Network in preparing for this conference in Dublin in July 2018. We have also working with colleagues from the NIASW in making our plans.

The conference programme is now on-line at [www.SWSD2018.org](http://www.SWSD2018.org). Approximately 1334 papers have been accepted from 77 countries including 96 papers from Ireland and 1100 posters have also been accepted. We have confirmed a number of service user groups who will present papers. Ten keynote speakers have also been confirmed including Mary Robinson who will open the conference. Field visits have been arranged to 11 sites including a day-trip to agencies in Belfast.

Tusla and The Probation Service have given strong support and we are very grateful for this. We are awaiting responses from other agencies and a number of Government Departments to requests for support. I would like to acknowledge the support given by Michele Clarke, DCYA.



### **IFSW World Social Work Day 2018**

WSWD was celebrated on the 21.03.2018. 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.

### **IFSW Meetings**

*IFSW-European Delegate Meeting 2018:* Anna Deneher and John Brennan are due to attend this annual meeting to be held in Bucharest, Romania at the end of May this year

*IFSW Biennial General Meeting, Dublin, 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> July:* Up to 150 delegates from IFSW member organisations will attend this meeting prior to the global conference.

### **IFSW Matters**

Key work areas for IFSW-Europe in 2017-18 were social work in times of austerity, social work with migrants, refugees and asylum seekers and EU Social Platform matters.

### **IAC Webpage on the IASW Website**

Follow events and updates on our work on our webpage.

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

### **Affiliated Group; Head Medical Social Workers Group**

Amanda Casey

The National Head Medical Social Worker Forum is an affiliated group of the IASW. The forum acts as both a source of information and support for Head Medical Social Workers nationally and as representative of health-related social work. The group meets bi monthly with membership from 40 hospitals across the country.

The group represents acute adult, pediatric and maternity hospitals, rehabilitation and hospice services and more recently private hospitals. The group's membership has widened to include senior social workers in standalone posts or those with management responsibilities.

The group continues to be active in their advocacy role and has made submissions on the review of Homecare services, Assisted Decision Making (Mental Capacity) Act, review of national Adult Safeguarding Policy, and the Model of Care for Palliative Care services.

We have made formal links with the National Health and Social Care Professionals Office within the HSE and welcomed Jackie Reed to one of our meetings to look at ways in which we can support each other in the promotion of the social work role in healthcare settings. Key to this is a baseline of current resources, structures and gaps nationally and this work is currently underway.

In keeping with our recognition of the importance of professional supervision we supported a further 5-day training session for senior medical social work staff undertaking supervision as part of their role. The Morrison Model continues to be the standard framework used.

Members have been actively involved in the implementation of the new Children First policy and guidelines at local level. While acknowledging the need for all staff to be aware of their role and responsibilities to protect children using their services, the group continues to provide expert guidance and support for colleagues using our professional training and the core skills of social workers in this area. This work has required significant time commitment from all HMSWs over the last 12 months.

We are planning our bi annual conference for September 2018 which will act as our AGM and facilitate the election of a new Chair, vice Chair and Secretary of the group."

### **Affiliated Group; Council of Irish Adoption Agencies (CIAA)**

Therese McDermott

No report for 2017/2018 term.