



Irish Association of Social Workers
Cumann na hÉireann um Oibríthe Sóisialta

May Newsletter

May 2017

IASW National Social Work Conference & AGM



This year's sold out National Social Work Conference

Of Hearts and Minds: the Practice of Relationships was an enjoyable and engaging day thanks, in no small part, to the input from the speakers and those practitioners who made oral and poster presentations. Many thanks also to those who participated in the round table discussions. Visit www.iasw.ie to view the presentations from the day. Photos from the day have been posted to Facebook



Recruit a Friend

Dear member

I hope that if you attended the IASW National Conference at the Radisson Hotel in Athlone that you enjoyed it. Many thanks to our CPD officer Cliona Murphy who did a wonderful job. The theme "Of Hearts and Minds: The Practice of Relationships" aimed to capture what lies at the heart of all good social work practice. As Erna O Connor said in her presentation, "as social workers we walk alongside people supporting them with their emotional needs", and assisting others to reconnect with their social world." Presentations can be downloaded from www.iasw.ie



On your behalf I would like to thank retiring IASW Board Directors Donal O'Malley and Billie Anne Johnson, both have given so much of their time to IASW over the years. The new Board for 2017/18 includes: Frank Browne Chair, Aine McGuirk Treasurer, John Brennan Vice Chair, Hilda Loughran, Ruth Murray, Elizabeth Hamilton, Anette O'Callaghan, Joe McCarthy, Zoe Linnane, Conor Boksberger.

Our AGM offered members an opportunity to debate motions and review the Annual Report and 2016 End of Year Audited Accounts. IASW has continued to record annual financial deficits and our accountant John Meade advised us that we must increase our income streams.

Two key motions passed at our 2017 AGM:

1. IASW calls upon the Government to fund and legislate for a statutory social work service for vulnerable adults, including those with a mental health, intellectual or a physical disability. HSE National Safeguarding Office defines a vulnerable person as; "an adult who may be restricted in capacity to guard him or herself against harm or exploitation or to report such harm or exploitation"
2. That this association calls 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 SWIFC/IASW discussion document - "Foster Care: Envisioning the Future" published in March 2017

I would sincerely like to thank you for being a member of IASW but as we need increased funds to pay for the current administration costs of what we do, please encourage IASW membership with your social work colleagues.

Finally the IASW Journal committee will be finalising the



Please encourage other social workers to join the IASW - we are stronger together! Our online materials can help promote membership to colleagues - click [here](#) to view

IASW IN THE NEWS

The [Irish Examiner](#) reported on a motion passed at the recent IASW AGM in Athlone that calls on the Government to establish and fund a statutory social work service for vulnerable adults, amid warnings that many people are allowed to drift into the margins of society with no single agency responsible for their welfare.

The launch of the report [Foster Care: Envisioning the Future](#) written by Cahal McHale and Valerie O'Brien got [extensive media coverage](#). The SWIFC report recommends that a working party be established to carry out a review of foster care services from the perspectives of legislation, policy, resource allocation, and best practice in the field.

Maintaining your CPD Portfolio - Top Tips

Congratulations to Bill Foley, Senior Social Worker in the Mater Hospital whose advice and information won the IASW competition for top tips on maintaining your CORU CPD Folder. Click [here](#) to view

summer journal soon and there will be many excellent articles for you to read over the summer, and I wish you and your family a great summer.
We are stronger together.

Frank Browne
Chair IASW

IASW Upcoming Events

To secure your place at an IASW event, **you need to book and pay online**. You can do this by visiting the relevant events page on the website, clicking on the **Book Now** button at the top of the page and completing the booking form.

To avail of the member rate you need to use the e-mail address you use for your IASW membership.

Thinking Critically About the Person-in Society: Towards a Model of Reflexivity in Social Work Friday, 7th July at St Andrews Resource Centre, 114-116 Pearse Street, Dublin 2

Registration at 9.00, Event 9.30 - 1.00

€5 members/€15 non-members

Stan Houston, TCD, will facilitate this workshop

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY - Sibshops

Friday, 6th October & Saturday 7th October

Dun Laoighaire, Co. Dublin

Social Workers in Disability, a Special Interest Group of the IASW have secured Don Meyer, director of the Sibling Support Project and creator of Sibshops to facilitate two day training for first generation sibshop facilitators in Ireland. Booking for this event will open in June. IASW members will be notified by e-mail as soon as booking opens and full event details will be made available then.

In the meantime, if you have any queries about Sibshops or would like further details about the training visit

<https://www.siblingsupport.org/about-sibshops>



CORU CPD Portfolio Audit

The Social Workers Registration Board at CORU have decided to change the requirement for registrants to participate in the CPD Portfolio audit. The SWRB state that the decision to invite, rather than require, participation in the audit process and not to implement "punitive outcomes" during the audit, arose from consideration of feedback from registrants and in recognition of this audit being the first cycle of CPD implemented by CORU. Instead of being required to participate, a random selection of registrants will instead be invited to participate. Invitations will be issued later this month. As a result, those hoping to defer audit will not now need to request a deferral if invited to submit their portfolio for audit. All they need do is simply advise the SWRB

IASW Submissions

IASW members made two recent policy submissions, one regarding the **Assisted Decision-Making Guide for Health and Social Care Professionals** and the other was a joint submission regarding the **Consultation Process for the Establishment of a Statutory Homecare Scheme**.

they have chosen not to participate. Click [here](#) for further information from CORU's website. You can also email cpd@coru.ie or call (01) 4727937.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch with Cliona Murphy, CPD Officer, IASW at cpdofficer@iasw.ie if you would like to give the IASW any feedback about your experience of the process to date.



Social Workers in the Mater celebrating World Social Work Day 2017



Royal Dublin Society, 4th - 7th July, 2018
Facebook: [facebook.com/SWSDOfficial](https://www.facebook.com/SWSDOfficial)
Twitter: @SWSDOfficial | #SWSD2018
Email: SWSD2018@mci-group.com
Website: www.SWSD2018.org



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

National Social Work Organisation of Ireland Limited T/A
Irish Association of Social Workers
Registered in Dublin No. 518634

Registered Office: 114-116 Pearse Street Dublin 2 Ireland

Tel: +353 (0) 6774 838
Email: office@iasw.ie
Website: www.iasw.ie

