

# Update from the IASW Office

## MEMBERSHIP

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Currently **one third of Social Workers in Ireland** are members of the IASW, with new members joining each week. We are constantly trying to recruit new members and would be grateful if you would encourage social work friends and colleagues to join the IASW. Our target is 4000 members!

The Board are in the process of setting up a 'Membership' Committee, this Committee will develop and lead out on a Membership Strategy. Further information will be provided by the Committee in the first quarter of 2019.

Lead by a **Volunteer Board** and supported by a **Volunteer Council**, the IASW is run by MEMBERS for MEMBERS, and we would ask each MEMBER to **recruit just one new member this year**, as this will DOUBLE our numbers.

Information on the **2019 Membership Renewal Process** can be found here:

<https://www.iasw.ie/page/283>

## SUBMISSIONS

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Within the last three months, several of our Council Groups and the Board of Directors have made submissions on; the Safeguarding Policy and the Implications of Brexit. These letters/submissions can be found here: <https://www.iasw.ie/Submissions-and-Representations>

## REPRESENTING THE IASW

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The IASW is invited to participate in many advisory, expert review and focus groups. We also receive invitations to a wide variety of events. In addition, we also meet with CORU, Tusla, Ministers, Government Departments and the media. Over the last three months the IASW has attended the following events and meetings:

- 5<sup>th</sup> Sept – National Disability Operations Team, Prof. Malcolm MacLachlan
- 7<sup>th</sup> Sept – Tusla Event, **Empowering Practitioners and Practice Initiative**
- 10<sup>th</sup> Sept - Review of the National Clinical and Integrated Care Programmes
- 27<sup>th</sup> Sept - Delivering on the Needs of Children & Young People with Disabilities Invite (IASW)
- 8<sup>th</sup> Oct – Meeting w/IASW & BASW, Northern Ireland
- 15<sup>th</sup> Oct – meeting w/IASW & CORU
- 17<sup>th</sup> Oct - Safeguarding Ireland: Programme for Advocacy Roundtable
- 6<sup>th</sup> Nov - National Health and Social Care Professions Best Practice and Innovation Awards.
- 12<sup>th</sup> Nov – HSE The Future Now: New Ways of Working by HSCP in Unscheduled Care Services.
- 13<sup>th</sup> Nov – meeting w/IASW & Foras
- 19<sup>th</sup> Nov - Launch of Children's Conference Report by Minister McGrath
- 20<sup>th</sup> Nov - EPIC - Seminar on the State of Care (foster, residential & after care)
- 21<sup>st</sup> Nov – Meeting w/IASW & Tusla
- 18<sup>th</sup> Dec – Meeting w/IASW & BASW, Northern Ireland

## COMMUNICATIONS AND PR

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The Board of Directors and Council met on September 22<sup>nd</sup> to discuss the proposed Comm's & PR Strategy for the association. Each of the Council Group(s) are in the process of preparing a briefing document on the public policy issues that are of concern for their Group. These briefings will enable the Chair of the Board to speak to the media promptly and accurately on policy issues on behalf of our Group(s). We hope to have these uploaded to our website early January.

## **THE IRISH SOCIAL WORKER JOURNAL**

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Articles are always welcome and should be emailed for the attention of the editor, email [officemanager@iasw.ie](mailto:officemanager@iasw.ie) for a copy of the Guidelines for Writing an article. The Winter Edition of the Irish Social Worker journal will be in your letter box on/before Dec 24<sup>th</sup>. Happy Reading To One And All!

## **INCREASING OUR RESOURCES**

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The Board of Directors have drafted a business case for Government Departments seeking seed funding for a National Director post. Thus far the Business Case has been reviewed by Michelle Clarke, Chief Social Worker DCYA, Seanan Turnbull and will be reviewed by another funding proposal expert early in the new year. The Board hopes that the business case will be with the relevant department within the first month of the new year.

## **CPD EVENTS**

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Sylvia has hit the ground running and is extremely busy planning the 2019 training calendar. Please save the following dates in your diaries:

1. World Social Work Day 19<sup>th</sup> March 2019
2. IASW Annual General Meeting 9<sup>th</sup> May 2019 in the Ashling Hotel, Dublin 2
3. IASW National Conference 10<sup>th</sup> May 2019 this year's theme is 'Practice Skills' and it will be held in the Ashling Hotel, Dublin 2

Please keep an eye on our event emails and the website for information on our upcoming events  
<https://www.iasw.ie/events/upcoming>

## **YOUR FEEDBACK IS IMPORTANT TO US**

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The Board are always looking for feedback from members regarding way in which we can improve our services and membership benefits, they would very much welcome any suggestions you may have. Feedback can be sent to [officemanager@iasw.ie](mailto:officemanager@iasw.ie) and FYI the Board of Directors will meet on the following dates in the first half of 2019: January 14<sup>th</sup>, March 11<sup>th</sup>, April 29<sup>th</sup>, June 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from  
The IASW Staff Team & Board of Directors**

