

ASaP Report

IASW Council Meeting 15 December 2020

1. Committee made up of three roles as part of a holding plan until the AGM – TBD. There are 50 members/non-members with a good cross section of SWs represented - medical, disability, charities, statutory, mental health, and good attendance at our meetings.
2. ToR shared with wider group - agreed and uploaded on IASW ASaP webpage.
3. Work is ongoing to populate our webpage with research and articles of interest and information on our submissions.
4. Held three (4 in total since established) meetings since the last IASW council meeting, monthly on Zoom organised by IASW, the last Thursday of the month and will continue with this plan in 2021.
5. Engaged in the follow tasks to date:
 - a. Feedback on IASW Advocacy Statement and attendance at the meeting between Kathleen Kelleher & Catherine O'Meara and Chairs of SIGs
 - b. Written submissions to the Oireachtas on *the Lived Experience of People with a Disability*
Disability Matters submission: Anne O' Loughlin was thanked for her work on this submission which was sent in from the ASaP group. This submission was mainly to influence their Terms of Reference. The submission is on the IASW website for reference and there is an emphasis on human rights. It was highlighted that there appears to be a lot of different groups and committees saying similar themes in relation to disability matters.
 - c. Two presentations at our group meeting.
 - (i) Dr Anne O'Loughlin on PhD research findings on *The Effects of Being Silent and What Happens When you Say Nothing*.
 - (ii) Integrity International Ireland on support, advice and training on integrity in the workplace. IASW can organise training on Integrity in the Workplace in relation to Whistleblowing as a concern raised by group members, and can become a member.
6. Three areas of focus were agreed by the group as a priority to focus on over the next year for subgroups:-
 - (a) Representation and Advocacy
 - (b) Communication
 - (c) Education and Training
 - The plan is for ASaP group to run a webinar by Dr Anne O'Loughlin on her research findings within Q1 2021 via CPD Dept.
7. IASW requested EOI for Rep on NSAC. Discussed the role at our last group Meeting and group members were invited to submit EOI with requirement to be ASaP Committee member and IASW member.
8. Tony McCusker highlighted a safeguarding assessment tool that he has become aware of from California which in his view is person centred and outcome focused. Tony to give more feedback.
9. Safeguarding Position Paper drafted by IASW was presented to ASaP group.
10. Issues of concern raised by group:
 - (a) Difficulties for long term Units/congregated settings – the stress of COVID-19 and the impact on residents, and on social workers supporting residents and their families. Also discussed was best practice internationally where social workers are well established in residential settings for many years and how we need to promote this as a standard of best practice and quality service provision in care settings homes in Ireland.
 - (b) Advocacy on the following and to clarify IASW approach with
 - a. for an Safeguarding Act;
 - b. Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Act 2015; and
 - (c) Dying with Dignity Bill and advocated for consultation around this from a safeguarding perspective given the perspective that there was a 'huge push to get it through'. The controversial nature of this Bill was highlighted and a request made that it be kept on the agenda of the ASaP.

11. Age Action AGM attended by AO'L – Main focus on language and perception of older people through the pandemic and the lack of recognition of diversity in older people and huge negative impact of Covid19 on older people in LTC.
12. Update from HSE Safeguarding Training Group? Tony McCusker outlined the HSE training on Safeguarding of Adults at Risk is on line via HSELand and there is a plan to build on this training for different levels of competency needs. Some concerns have been expressed that a 3.5 hour face to face training has been replaced by a 45 minute online course.
13. The representative on the Dept of health was discussed and Celine agreed to draft a letter on behalf of IASW ASaP in relation to this role.
14. Discussion about need for a Chief Social Worker for Adults.

End.