



Oifig an Cheannasaí Oibríochtaí & Feabhsúcháin Seirbhíse
Seirbhísí do Dhaoine Scothaosta
Tel: 061 483245
Email: olderpeople.operations@hse.ie

Office of the Assistant National Director - Operations
Services for Older People
Tel: 061 483245
Email: olderpeople.operations@hse.ie

18 February 2021

Aine McGuirk,
Chair of the Irish Association of Social Workers,
The National Social Work Organisation of Ireland CLG
T/A Irish Association of Social Workers
St. Andrews Resource Centre,
114-116 Pearse Street,
Dublin 2

(sent via email to officemanager@iasw.ie)

Re: Meeting between the Irish Association of Social Workers and the Health Service Executive

Dear Aine,

I am writing in relation to our meeting held Thursday, 11 February 2021.

During the meeting, IASW highlighted a number of areas where there were concerns regarding the utilisation of the Social Work role specifically in relation to nursing homes.

The IASW shared particular concerns in respect of:

1. Application of the NPSC guidance on visits to long term residential care facilities across both private and public sectors.
2. The Social Work role in relation to the emerging structures and reform models for Older Person's Services.
3. The development of the HSE Psycho-social framework response to COVID-19 and the roll out of the area based community and acute psycho-social response.

In response to the concerns you have raised on behalf of the IASW, we have agreed on the following actions;

1. In instances where the IASW have specific concerns regarding the application of the visitor guidance within HSE residential facilities, these concerns should be passed on to the HSE Older Persons Operations office, where these concerns will be investigated with the Person in Charge.
2. IASW will consider submitting a revised document on the proposed social work liaison role reflective of emerging structures and reforms models as well as the feedback from the meeting's discussion. The HSE has agreed to share any proposals with the Department of Health.
3. The IASW can inform this Office of any specific examples of CHO areas who are not involving the social work profession in the roll out of the area based community and acute psycho-social response. On receipt of any concerns my office will follow this up with the relevant CHO leads.
4. The HSE will consider the feedback provided by the IASW on public awareness campaigns and messaging initiatives around adult safeguarding

I would like to express my gratitude to the IASW for attending the meeting to discuss these concerns and together with my colleagues in the Older People National Office we look forward to collaborating with you into the future. I want to again acknowledge that I highly value the role of Social Work in the provision of delivering holistic, client centred services to older people across Ireland.

Yours sincerely,



Sandra Tuohy,
Assistant National Director - Community Operations,
Services for Older People.

cc. Sinead McGarry, Member of IASW
Celine O'Connor, Vice Chair of IASW's Adult Safeguarding Special Interest Group
Tim Hanly, General Manager, HSE National Safeguarding Office