

## Advocacy

In accordance with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Social Workers promote the equality, respect, dignity and self-determination of all children/young people.

Social Workers use intercultural and anti-discriminatory practices in our work and advocate for social justice and social inclusion.

Through the Irish Association of Social Workers (IASW) and other national forums, Social Workers identify unmet needs and gaps in services/ resources and seek the development of new services.

Social Workers highlight inequality and strive to influence change in policies, legislation and societal attitudes.

Social Workers aim to promote the National Outcomes for Children and their Families:

That children and young people

- have a voice in matters that affect them
- enjoy the best possible health
- are safe
- have friends
- learn skills to be independent
- take part in home, school and community life

That families

- understand their child's/young person's needs
- are supported to ensure rights of the child are respected
- take part in community services
- look after, take care of and support their child/ young person

## CDNT Contact Details:



# SOCIAL WORK SERVICE



## INFORMATION FOR PROFESSIONALS

Social Workers work as part of an interdisciplinary team using a family centred approach to support children and families to identify and achieve their goals. Social Workers aim to empower families to live their best lives, to harness their own internal strengths and those of their extended families and communities.



### **Assessment**

Social Workers use a holistic, family centred assessment approach to explore the emotional, social, environmental and financial wellbeing of the child and family. Social Workers focus on each family's strengths, needs and barriers while encouraging capacity building within the family. Interventions are planned in partnership with the child, parents and the team.

### **Interventions**

Social Workers provide intervention in universal, targeted and direct ways e.g., in groups, workshops, drop-in clinics and direct intervention with children and families. Social Work interventions are informed by a range of theories and practices including: systems theory, conflict resolution, crisis intervention theory, solution focused therapy, strengths-based perspective, attachment theory, trauma informed care, loss and grief work. Social Workers are strong advocates for, and skilled in, interdisciplinary and interagency work

### **Therapeutic and emotional support**

Central to social work intervention is therapeutic work with parents and carers, giving space to explore what it means for them to have a child or children with extra needs.

### **Signposting and linking to resources**

Social Workers provide advice and information regarding the rights of children with disabilities. Social Workers support families to access and navigate services including: disability, respite, health, housing, social welfare and community services. Social Workers provide information, refer to and liaise with specialist services in relation to other significant stressors in families' lives (e.g., relationship and mental health difficulties, addiction, domestic violence, housing, isolation, cultural barriers, parenting issues with other children)

### **Crisis Intervention**

Responsive and flexible Social Work intervention can be provided to children and families experiencing crisis or severe difficulty in relation to parenting or family issues

### **Safeguarding**

While Safeguarding is a whole team responsibility and all team members are Mandated Reporters under Children First Act 2015, Social Workers by virtue of their training and experience may play a particular role in supporting the team with complex cases

### **Training /Group work**

Social Workers play a key role in establishing and running a variety of information, training and networking groups to build resilience and upskill parents, young people and wider family members i.e., Parents Plus, Early Bird, Ascend, Sibshops, Parental self-care, Parent and Toddler Groups etc. Groups may be run in conjunction with other team members.

### **Support for transition**

Social workers work collaboratively to support the child and family through key transitions e.g., starting and leaving school and moving to adult services.

**The above interventions may be provided by Social Workers where resources are available.**

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