

SUBMISSION REGARDING HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE PROFESSIONALS COUNCIL (CORU) STATEMENT OF STRATEGY 2013-16

31st October 2013

The IASW welcomes the opportunity to give feedback on CORU's draft Statement of Strategy 2013-16. While broadly welcoming the Strategy, here are a number of key points the Association would like CORU to address.

Use of the term patient safety

The IASW requests that the term *patient safety* be amended to read *patient/ service user safety and welfare* to better reflect the range of services delivered by those health and social care professionals regulated by CORU. Use of the term *service user* also more accurately reflects the fact that those in receipt of services are often not patients.

Challenge 4: Finance and resource constraints will impact CORU's ability to deliver on its mission

Likewise, finance and resource constraints will impact on a registrant's ability to maintain high standards of professional conduct and competence. The IASW welcomes the recognition by CORU of the contexts within which many registrants work, i.e., one in which public sector staff numbers are severely restricted. Many social workers are employed on teams operating at 60-70% of their full staff complement. Furthermore, their professional practice takes place in an environment where services and supports have suffered cutbacks and closures, resulting in few resources for service users. The IASW would welcome the ***recognition by CORU of the impact on registrants of understaffing and under resourcing alongside an increased demand for services***. The contexts registrants work in directly impact on the individual registrant's capacity to maintain high standards

of professional conduct and competence. For example, many employers do not give social workers time off to engage in CPD training, events or seminars.

Include Employers of Registrants as Stakeholders

Under *Challenge 5: Delivery of CORU's work depends heavily on voluntary service on Council and Registration Boards*, it states "It is vital that CORU engage with employers to gain their support for CORU's work and their employees' valuable and essential contributions to their professions". The IASW thinks it is vital that this recognition extends to engaging with and informing employers of a registrant's duty to engage in CPD and to encourage employers to support registrants to comply with the duties attached to registration. The IASW would welcome the drafting of Guidelines for Employers in this regard.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch with any queries in relation to this submission.

Yours sincerely,

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Chair, Irish Association of Social Workers