

Irish Association of Social Workers



IASW

Irish Association of Social Workers
Cumann na hÉireann um Oibrithe Sóisialta

Strategic Plan
2014 - 2016

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IASW Vision

Social workers engaging in their profession with pride and integrity, displaying the highest standards of excellence in social work practice.

Mission Statement

The IASW seeks to enable social workers continually improve the quality of their practice and to promote the social work profession in the Republic of Ireland.

Strategic Objectives

1. Ensuring the sustainable development of the IASW, as the professional body supporting and representing the social work profession in the Republic of Ireland.
2. Improving the standards and quality of professional social work practice
3. Facilitating social workers to meet the CPD requirements of registration
4. Increasing access to information and support for social workers
5. Enhancing the public profile and perception of social work
6. Using social work expertise to influence the development of local, national and international policy and practice

IASW Values

The work of the IASW is underpinned by the social work values outlined in the CORU Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics for Social Workers,

The strategic plan is informed by these values which are in broad terms

- Respect for the inherent dignity and worth of persons
- Pursuit of social justice
- Integrity in professional practice
- Confidentiality in professional practice
- Competency in Professional Practice

Page 3: The Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics for Social Workers (Social Workers Registration Board 2011)

Action Plan to Achieve Strategic Objectives

Strategic Objective 1: Ensuring the sustainable development of the IASW

Action Plan:

- 1.1.** Secure the human, financial, infrastructural and other resources necessary to ensure the operational sustainability of the IASW.
- 1.2.** Develop a financial management strategy, incorporating the preparation, monitoring and management of an annual budget and an income generation and protection plan
- 1.3.** Grow the Associations membership base in order to ensure the IASW has the necessary financial and practice-skills resources to represent the social work profession.
- 1.4.** Develop and implement a membership strategy with the aim of growing membership to 2,000 by 2016.

Strategic Objective 2: Improving the standards and quality of professional social work practice.

Action Plan:

- 2.1** Provide and endorse training for social workers
- 2.2** Provide opportunities for social workers to participate in Special Interest Groups (SIGs)
- 2.3** Produce an academic social work journal which is accessible online
- 2.4** Facilitate the involvement of social workers in research

Strategic Objective 3: Facilitating social workers to meet the CPD requirements of registration.

Action Plan:

- 3.1** Provide CPD training events
- 3.2** Maintain a list of supervisors offering professional supervision
- 3.3** Provide access to CPD resources

Strategic Objective 4: Increasing access to information and support for social workers

Action Plan:

- 4.1** Provide members with a professional response to their communications and queries
- 4.2** Provide a regular newsletter to members
- 4.3** Maintain an up to date website
- 4.4** Provide members with access to Fitness to Practice insurance coverage
- 4.5** Provide members with information on job vacancies

Strategic Objective 5: Enhancing the public profile and perception of social work

Action Plan:

- 5.1** Develop a communications strategy
- 5.2** Participate in coalitions of interest
- 5.3** Respond to queries from the general public and media on social work related matters.

Strategic Objective 6: Using social work expertise to influence the development of local, national and international policy and practice

Action Plan:

- 6.1** Represent the social work profession in discussions and decision making with Government departments, statutory, voluntary and community organisations on matters affecting the social work profession and its client groups.
- 6.2** Prepare written submissions representing social work views and expertise on matters relating to policy, legislative, service and practice developments, nationally and internationally.
- 6.3** Develop collaborative working relationships with our international social work partners.