

JOIN AN IASW SPECIAL INTEREST OR COMMITTEE!

“Birds of a Feather, Fly Together”

REASONS TO JOIN A SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP OR COMMITTEE

1. Membership of this group will help you meet the daily challenges facing Social Workers
2. Personal Benefits: Looks good on your CV, provides networking opportunities, interact with fellow social workers who have similar interests, etc.
3. Provides an opportunity to earn CPD credits
4. Allows you to stay up to date with the latest news and developments in the profession
5. Provides you with an opportunity to get essential advice and guidance to support you and your clients

IASW Special Interest Groups

- Social Workers in Primary Care
- Social Workers in Aging
- Social Workers in Child & Adolescent Mental Health
- Child & Family Social Workers
- Social Workers in Adult Mental Health
- Newly Qualified Social Workers
- Probation Social Workers

- Social Workers in Disability
- Social Workers in Foster Care
- Practitioner Research Group
- Southern Region

IASW Committees & Associate Groups

- The Journal Committee
- The International Affairs Committee
- The Head Medical Social Workers
- The Council of Irish Adoption Agencies

Special Interest Groups (SIG's), Committees and Associate Groups, make up the IASW Council and are the advisory body to the IASW Board. These Groups within the Association meet to discuss issues in a common area of work (e.g. Adult Mental Health, Children & Families, Probation, and Disability) or in a geographical region (e.g. Southern Region). These groups identify priority issues that the Association need to address – e.g. a media issue, a training need and feed this back to the Board.

Each Group has a representative at **Council** that presents a report on the activities of their Group or Committee at the Council Meeting, and produces a written report for the AGM and Annual Report <https://www.iasw.ie/about.aspx?contentid=2029>

Council meets four times a year to discuss the affairs of the Association. Here are the dates for the 2015 Council meetings: Monday February 22nd and Monday May 30th in IASW offices.

Information about the SIG's, Committees & Associate Groups can be found in the 'About Us' section on our website. IASW members interested in joining a SIG or Committee, can contact office@iasw.ie

"When I joined primary care, there was no induction. I was put into an empty office and told to set up a service! I embrace opportunities like this but I still didn't really know where to start! I joined the Social Workers in Primary Care Special Interest Group (SIG) and through this, I learned so much. My confidence and practice has grown so much through my work on the SIG But there is so much to be gained simply by attending the meetings too. Sometimes in our daily work we can get frustrated with the challenges that face our service users, with the lack of resources and the system that we work in. Being part of an IASW group can help us feel like we are part of something bigger. It is like having another team, only this one is there to support you" ~ IASW Member

It is crucial that members involve themselves in a Special Interest Group or Committee to identify the pressing issues with their peers that the Association can respond to or focus on