

## Social Work values

- ◆ Social Work values are based on respect for the equality, worth, dignity and self-determination of all people.
- ◆ Social Work practice focuses on meeting needs, developing and promoting human rights.
- ◆ Social Workers promote social inclusion, non-judgmental practices and maintain confidentiality within their professional relationships.
- ◆ Social Workers promote intercultural and anti-discriminatory practices to ensure equal opportunities.
- ◆ Social Workers promote the inclusion and integration of people with disabilities within the wider community.
- ◆ Social Work values are embodied in the profession's National and International codes of ethics as laid down by the Irish Association of Social Workers (IASW), The International Federation of Social Workers, and CORU The Health and Social Care Professionals Council.

Produced by Social Workers  
in Disabilities  
A Special Interest Group of:



Irish Association of Social Workers  
Cumann na hÉireann um Oibrithe Sóisialta

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IASW  
Irish Association of Social Workers  
Cumann na hÉireann um Oibrithe Sóisialta

# Social Work in Disability

## The Role of Social Work in Disability Services

Our role is to work in partnership with people with disabilities, their families, carers, staff, and service providers, to identify needs, to facilitate emotional and practical support, and to empower people to enhance their quality of life.

Professional Social Work is focused on problem solving and supporting positive changes in people's lives. Social Workers utilize a variety of skills, techniques and activities consistent with a holistic focus on the person and their environment.

## Areas of Social Work intervention

Social Work bases its interventions on a systematic body of evidence-based knowledge and practice.

The role of the Social Worker varies according to the identified needs of the person, and the service context.

## Assessments

- ◆ Social Workers carry out Psycho-social Assessments which take in to account many aspects of the person's life such as a family history, current supports in place, resources, strengths, needs and the social networks available to him/ her and their family.
- ◆ The Social Work Assessment focuses on each person's emotional, social, physical and economic well-being.
- ◆ The purpose of the assessment is to gather all relevant information pertaining to that person to identify appropriate areas of intervention.

- ◆ Further Social Work support is planned in partnership with each person, their family and other professionals.

## Linking people to resources and support

- ◆ Social Work involves seeking, developing, and delivering appropriate services to people and to their families/ carers.
- ◆ Social Workers engage in Inter-agency work and MDTs to incorporate a fully inclusive model of support.
- ◆ Referral to and liaising with other relevant internal & external services and resources (e.g. home care packages, respite, home support services)
- ◆ Empowering people to access information/ service around entitlements benefits and legislation.
- ◆ Advice and support in relation to access to Residential Care and Independent Living.
- ◆ Organizing/ Accessing residential and family-based respite schemes and a range of home support services.

## Safeguarding

- ◆ Social Workers by virtue of their training and experience are involved in assessments and interventions relating to safeguarding issues.

## Therapeutic and Support Work:

- ◆ Central to the role of Social Work is developing and maintaining relationships with people, their families, and support networks.
- ◆ The Social Worker is responsible to ensure the needs of each person is of paramount concern and they advocate at all times for this person.
- ◆ Different therapeutic Social Work skills can include Casework, Meditation, Counselling Skills, Group Work, Crisis Intervention, Family Therapy, Solution focused Brief Therapy and Bereavement Work.

## Training/ Groupwork

- ◆ Social Workers provide training and group work to the people they support, their families, and staff. Training varies according to service and can include areas such as safeguarding, parenting, sibling workshops, and bereavement support.

## Advocacy

- ◆ Social Workers are involved in internal and external advocacy for individual people.
- ◆ Through our professional bodies and other national forums Social Workers also identify gaps in current service provision, seek the development of new services, highlight inequality, work to bring about change in policies, resources issues, and societal attitudes.