

Child and adolescent Mental Health Social Worker Special Interest Group.

Annual Report 2015/2016

The Child and Adolescent Mental Health service (CAMHS) special interest group provides a national forum for social workers working in CAMHS or interested in this area of work. We meet and discuss issues of relevance, contribute to relevant national policy, facilitate CPD, and have representation on relevant national groups. The group normally meet 3 times per year. Our meetings are split into a business meeting and time given for CPD training. Alongside these national meetings, there is constant communication and liaison between the members of the committee. The committee responds to regular queries and opportunities for input on behalf of the wider group.

Since our last AGM on 2/02/15 the group met twice with a third meeting time given to a joint conference with our Social Work colleagues in adult mental health.

02/02/15 – SIG -St Patricks Hospital, Dublin 8

16/04/15 –Joint conference - Harolds cross

28 /09/15- SIG- Lucena clinic , Rathgar .

Summary of activities and key issues addressed by the SIG

- The introduction and review of the National CAMHS SOP. In June The CAMHS Service Improvement group launched the SOP and this is due for review in July 2017. Concerns have been expressed around the process and lack of consultation afforded.
- The expansion of the Social Work discipline within CAMHS and the need for training and support for new to CAMHS Social Workers. The need for parity with multi-Disciplinary team colleagues particularly around the allocation of training budgets. This has become more pertinent for social work in light of registration.

- We have contributed to the MHR/CMHC presentation before members of the Oireachtas. Sarah Houston represents our sig at the Children’s Mental Health Coalition.

- Principal Social Workers in CAMHS are now included in the National social Work Managers Group and are regular attendees at their meetings.
- The issue of transferring files from CAMHS to AMHS - the implications for Data protection

- Communication with and support from IASW through meeting and emails we work to enhance communication between our professional body and social workers in CAMHS. This SIG is represented on the IASW council.

- Sustaining the CAMHS SIG and ensuring the groups relevance.

- CPD and Training:-
 - The Impact of Sexual Violence on young people, awareness, education, and opportunities.in this presentation Grainne Muldoon, Social Worker, CAMHS looked the issues associated with the impact of sexual violence on the mental health of young people. Particular consideration was given to the new challenges posed by social media.(02/02/15)

 - There was a joint conference between CAMHS and SWAMH. The conference looked as social work as a champion of lifespan mental health solutions. . The speakers included the Minister Kathleen Lynch, Dr. margo Wrigley, HSE National Clinical lead for Mental Health, Ms.Gloria Kirwan, Ass. Professor in social work, TCD. There were a number of workshops that looked at interagency working across AMHS and CAMHS ,a particular intervention in child to parent violence and discussion on the barriers and enablers to social work delivering lifespan mental health solutions.(16/04/15)

 - Cliona Murphy, CPD officer, give a very comprehensive presentation on CPD. Which encouraged Social workers to reflect on all aspects of their learning.

Cliona highlighted how best to document and present material being considered for CPD. (28/09/15)

- Fiona Coyle, Senior Social worker led a mindfulness session.

- Nicola Byrne, Principal Social Worker give an overview of the Standard Operating Procedures introduced nationally in June 2015. Nicola facilitated a discussion on the experiences and challenges of implementing the SOP which should be fully operational in all CAMHS.

Committee elected February 2015:

Nichol Byrne (Chairperson) , Sonia Neiland(secretary),Sharon Galligan, Bernadine Hanratty, Declan Coogan, Eoin Barry, Fiona Coyle, Mark James, Olivia Fagan, Paul Longmore, Sarah Houston, Sheila McKenna.

In September 2015 Nichol Byrne resigned as chairperson as she changed jobs and Sonia Neiland also resigned as Secretary as she was going on leave. Fiona Coyle and Olivia Fagan took on these respective roles for the remainder of the year.

I would like to thank the Committee members, for all their commitment, time and hard work over the past year.

On behalf of the committee I would like to thank those who organised the venues and booked speakers and those who facilitated the clinical practice workshops at our meetings.

Please feel free to contact any member of the committee at any time with any queries about the work of the CAMHS SIG committee.

New Committee elected February 2016 :

Eoin Barry (Chairperson), Olivia Fagan (Secretary),Sheila Mc Kenna , Titi Sokan, Fiona Coyle, Sarah Houston, Lorraine O Reilly, Claire Foley , Brid Griffin, Siobhan Kelly,Lynn Harney, Maria Gates ,Sharon Galligan .

Fiona Coyle

Chairperson

Social Workers in CAMHS – SIG, IASW

22/02/16

