

AGM MOTIONS 2020

Motion 1

Proposed by: Aine McGuirk, Chair of the IASW

Seconded by: John Brennan, Vice-Chair of the IASW
On behalf of the IASW Board of Directors

That the members of IASW formally adopt the revised and updated versions of the IASW Code of Ethics and Code of Practice.

Explanation: At the AGM of the IASW on the 10th May 2019, grave concerns were expressed about the new revision of the Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics for Social Workers. Following a motion at that AGM, the IASW contacted CORU regarding this matter. CORU replied to this letter on July 24th, 2019 stating that they would not change their code. The IASW decided to go ahead with revising and updating its own codes which would reference CORU's Code and align it to the core principles of social work as laid down by the International Federation of Social Workers' Statement of Ethical Principles. The draft documents before you are the result of that redrafting.

47 in favour
No abstentions
1 against
Motion was carried

Motion 2

Proposed by: Dr. Colletta Dalikeni, Board Member of the IASW

Seconded by: Oluromade Olusa & Evelyn Oboh, Members of the IASW

That the IASW incorporates learning about Racism, Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion into its CPD activities and advocate for updating current social work education curriculum and practice to include other world views, diverse knowledge systems, and intervention methods that reflect the multicultural makeup of Ireland today. In particular we believe it is crucial that the IASW provides a platform for ongoing discussion of 'Racism' in social work which is a reality for those who experience it both social workers and service users and encourage learning that helps Social Workers challenge systems and professional practice that perpetuate racism in Ireland.

Explanation: This motion comes on foot of two global pandemics: The 'Racism Pandemic' (Death of George Floyd) and Corvid 19 (Disproportionate number of Black and Ethnic minorities dying from the corona virus due to lack of access to quality health care and other supports). The brutal homicide of George Floyd in Minneapolis in the hands of White US police officers has resulted in a global response and outcry to an issue that is the elephant in the room but nevertheless least spoken about in the public arena in our society.

Taoiseach Leo Varadkar in his speech in the Dáil Eireann on the 4th of June 2020 and again on the 11th of June 2020 on 2FM acknowledged the existence of Racism in Irish society and has committed to the enactment of hate crime legislation and anti-racism public awareness campaign in the future.

As part of a racist society social work in Ireland is not immune to racism. Various Irish scholars have lamented the existence of racism in social work practice guidelines (Christie 2010)

The disproportionate high number of Black African families in childcare proceedings was highlighted in the Child Care Law Reporting Project by Carol Coulter in (2013). That 'African families are 20 times more likely to find themselves in the childcare courts than other members of Irish Society' is a cause for concern. The report highlighted that no easy explanations for these statistics could be provided and that the issues involved were more practice based than a matter for the courts. Misunderstanding in Cultural differences and in conceptualisations of child abuse were however not ruled out as possible contributory factors. Coulter 2013 recommended the need for social work training to include a focus on working with difference.

We believe Social work as defined by IFSW through the leadership of IASW has a crucial role in promoting and supporting development and initiating transformation of traditional social work education and practice to include other world views as represented in the current Irish multicultural demographic profile and the Social Work ethnically diverse population it serves.

We call upon the IASW to join The Irish Network Against Racism in support against Racism and formally request the Government to support the enactment of hate crime legislation without delay.

'Furthermore, given the historical discrimination experienced by Minceir/Travellers in Ireland, the IASW acknowledges the need for social workers to regularly reflect on their practice using an anti-racist lens. MInceir have recognition from the Irish state as separate ethnic group and as such Social Work practice should provide space and acknowledgement for diversity in all its forms.

46 in favour
4 abstentions
No-one against
Motion was carried

Motion 3

Proposed by: Kerry Cuskelly, Member of the IASW

Seconded by: John Brennan, Vice-Chair of the IASW

That the IASW develop a policy that supports special interest groups when engaging in advocating on issues of relevance to the profession and the communities we work with.

Explanation: This motion is asking the IASW to develop an operational guideline / policy to scaffold the work of special interest groups when engaging in advocacy related work e.g. developing position papers, issuing press releases, statements etc on issues of relevance to the profession and the communities we work with. This guideline/policy would seek to ensure coordination of advocacy efforts across SIGS, Council and Board to ensure maximum communication, best use of limited resources and less duplication of effort.

54 in favour
4 abstentions
No-one against
Motion was carried

Motion 4

Proposed by: Kerry Cuskelly, Member of the IASW

Seconded by: John Brennan, Vice-Chair of the IASW

That the IASW develops an advocacy strategy that defines advocacy for social work and advances the social work role in advocacy work.

Explanation: The development of independent advocacy services has led to a questioning by others of the role of social workers as advocates for service users/clients who are vulnerable. Developing a strategy would therefore be timely and would aim to highlight and clarify advocacy as a core function of social work in upholding human rights and promoting social justice.

This motion is being sought following the successful International Committee conference "Advocates and Allies" in 2019. Evaluations from the conference advised that social workers were interested in the association pursuing actions around broader social justice, human rights, and advocacy-based social work values.

58 in favour
3 abstentions
No-one against
Motion was carried

Motion 5

Proposed by: Kaylene Jackson, Member of the IASW

Seconded by: Donal Gill, Member of the IASW

That the IASW call for a systemic review of all areas of Social Work practice with a view to developing a National Social Work Strategy for the next decade.

Explanation: Investment in primary and social care services has been fragmented and disproportionate across Ireland. There is a significant lack of Social Work in areas such as Primary Care Setting, Local Authorities, Acute Hospital Services, Mental Health Services, Disability, Criminal Justice and Safeguarding. The recent pandemic has demonstrated the implications for social determinants of health and well-being in addition to acknowledging the need for all service provision to adhere to principles of Social Justice and Human Rights. Social Work as a profession is vital to the implementation of such policy and processes based on those principles. Social Work as a profession has become undervalued by the State and undermined in relation to the lack of investment and resource. A National Social Work Strategy is now essential to protect

those within the profession and promote recruitment and retention. A Strategy is also fundamental to protecting and promoting the rights of persons who require and necessitate engagement with professional Social Work practice across the multitude of areas of Social Work Practice.

55 in favour
4 abstentions
1 against
Motion was carried

Motion 6

Proposed by: Kaylene Jackson, Member of the IASW

Seconded by: Donal Gill, Member of the IASW

That the IASW support the Decision Support Office in calling for immediate and full commencement of the Assisted Decision Making (Capacity) Act 2015.

Explanation: The Assisted Decision Making (Capacity) Act 2015 will support the work of social workers across many domains in ensuring that the rights and preferences of service users are central to all decision-making and care planning. The guiding principles of the Act align closely with Social Work professional ethics and values and it is envisaged that social workers will have a key role in the implementation of the Act and the work of the Decision Support Office.

59 in favour
2 abstentions
No-one against
Motion was carried

Motion 7

Proposed by: Kaylene Jackson, Member of the IASW

Seconded by: Donal Gill, Member of the IASW

That the IASW call for reform of the Safeguarding Legislation to give powers of entry to Safeguarding and Protection teams to Private Nursing Homes.

Explanation: All residents of nursing homes, both public and private, and residents in other congregated settings have the right to protection from harm or abuse. Medical Social workers who have supported persons entering residential settings note the lack of statutory support for Safeguarding and Protection teams to enter privately run nursing homes to investigate allegations of abuse or neglect. Recent review of the

national policy does not address this issue and residents remain at risk without access to supports and safeguards available to those in public units.

**** Withdrawn ****

Motion 8

Proposed by: Patrice Reilly, Member of the IASW

Seconded by: Aisling Coffey, Member of the IASW

That the IASW calls on the HSE to ensure that social work is included as a core and essential member of multidisciplinary teams working with older people and other adults who may be vulnerable in community, residential and acute settings.

Explanation: In light of Covid-19, and in terms of equality of access and human rights, all adults in Ireland should have a right to access to the support and services of a social worker regardless of their residence or the geographical area in which they reside.

Aside from the general risk to a persons' physical, emotional, and mental health and wellbeing, changes and issues arising from Covid-19's may increase the potential for an older person to be exposed to abuse. This in itself further increases the need for equal access for all to social work services.

**** Withdrawn ****

Motion 9

Proposed by: Linda Curran, Member of the IASW

Seconded by: Elaine Donnelly, Member of the IASW

That the IASW endorse the campaign to revise and amend the CFRA Act 2020 to include all pathways to parentage and ensure all children have a legal relationship with their intended parents.

Explanation: The Children and Families Relationship Act was commenced in May 2020. This gives legal recognition for both parents of some children. The current legislation is gender neutral and applies to use of donor sperm and/or donor eggs in an Irish fertility clinic. Outside of that many families are not covered, for example, if a heterosexual couple use a surrogate abroad. There is automatic right to parentage for females and gay male couples that use a surrogate. The CFRA Act does not include same sex fathers, reciprocal IVF, surrogacy, at home inseminations, those who have used a known donor, those who had their fertility treatment abroad and children born abroad.

This has created a vacuum whereby the children within some families do not have a legal relationship with both of their intended parents.

The implication of this is that the parents have zero legal relationship to their children. Further implications for the children involved include issues with their non-birth parent taking them to the doctors and making medical decisions, applying for a passport for the child, if the couple split up they would have zero recourse regarding access and guardianship rights. Children are left vulnerable in terms of maintaining their relationship with the non-biological parent as cohabitation is an essential tenet for guardianship rights. Critically, if one of the parent's pass-away, the other may have no legal relationship with the child. Currently, in such cases the parent would have to apply for testamentary guardianship, and this can be challenged by the deceased birth parent's family etc. It would leave the child in a vulnerable position.

The CFRA Act has started to make some provisions for some families. However, it does not go far enough, and this results in some children being left in a precarious legal position for the reasons previously outlined. All pathways to parentage were not fully explored prior to the enactment of this Act and hence exclusions have arisen.

LGBT Ireland are looking to form an overall alliance to capture all groups advocating on this issue e.g. the equality for children campaign (LGBT), the 221+ group (cervical cancer group), some of these women want to use surrogates and the state won't pay for treatment as they don't currently regulate surrogacy, etc.

The IASW can endorse this campaign by making a statement of support, using social media platforms to raise awareness of the shortfall in legislation which precludes some children from having a legal relationship with both of their intended parents, and writing to relevant TDs and ministers regarding this matter. The alliance is calling for Dr Conor O'Mahoney to be appointed as special rapporteur with a mandate to look at all pathways to parenthood, the statement of support should include this directive also.

33 in favour
17 abstentions
5 against
Motion was carried

AGM MOTIONS 2019

Motion 1

Proposed by: Regina Mullan

Seconded by: Claire Barnwell

On behalf of the Council of Irish Adoption Agencies (CIAA)

That IASW, along with CIAA, call for a direct meaningful dialogue with the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Dr. Katherine Zappone, to ensure that the voice of social work practitioners is clearly heard, along with other stakeholders, about issues that are currently having a detrimental effect on adoption social work practice. That the IASW & CIAA call upon the Minister for the establishment of an ongoing consultation process about any new proposed amendments to the Adoption & Information and Tracing Bill 2016 to ensure that the competing rights of all parties are given the correct balance.

Explanation There was an announcement by the Minister on 26th February 2019, without prior consultation with social work practitioners or other stakeholders, that she had secured government approval to draft

further amendments to the privacy provisions in the Adoption I&T Bill 2016. The purpose of the proposed legislation is to give a statutory basis to the provision of adoption information. There is a presumption in favour of disclosing identifying information to adopted adults as far as legally and constitutionally possible which includes giving them a legal right to their original birth certificate and birth information from agency files. These amendments have sought to resolve a constitutional dilemma regarding the right to identity versus the right to privacy that is reflected in Article 8 of the European Convention of Human Rights which stresses the right to information about birth parents is not an absolute right but that this must be balanced against the rights of other parties to have identifying information about them disclosed. The amendments do not however take into consideration the social work practice issues of trying to provide an Information and Tracing Service, the increase in already lengthy waiting times there would be for would be service users, or the additional unnecessary resource implications should these amendments be implemented.

Minister Zappone's announcement has been made against the backdrop of an ongoing controversy around part of the current draft legislation which requires that before birth information or an original birth certificate can be released, an adopted person will be required to swear an affidavit, later amended to a sworn statement, to ensure they will respect the birth mother's need for privacy and will not contact her against her wishes. The new amendments will now replace the need for a signed undertaking by contacting the birth parent(s) for their consent before any birth information or their original birth certificate will be released. This would imply that the birth parent's right to privacy has now assumed greater weight than the adopted person's right to identity. This is a retrograde step as traditionally social workers have been releasing limited non-identifying information to adopted persons from agency files before contact is made with the birth parent in line with the Standardised Framework on Information and Tracing published by the Adoption Board in 2005. There are many ramifications for practice as there are adopted adults who request background information but may not wish to proceed to an active search; it would preclude releasing medical information in life threatening situations; it would create unnecessary psychological pressure on all concerned; cause serious long term delays and a misuse of resources when there are still long waiting lists for this service around the country; deprive adopted people of even very basic information for even lengthier periods of time and create additional dilemmas where birth parents can't be traced. Providing background information, as has been the practice, allows those searching to make an informed choice and to receive counselling and support. By not doing so this may create a greater risk of birth parents being traced through other avenues and then contacted directly without their right to privacy being respected.

29 in favour
No abstentions
1 against
Motion was carried

Motion 2
Proposed by: Regina Mullan
Seconded by: Claire Barnwell
On behalf of the Council of Irish Adoption Agencies (CIAA)

That IASW call for the exemption of adoption under the new GDPR legislation as this was intended to protect people's rights to confidentiality and not deprive them of a right to information about their birth parents and is in contravention with the United Nations Convention of Human Rights.

Explanation: The new GDPR regulations have had unforeseen implications for current social work practice in relation to providing an Information and Tracing Service and directly impacted on the ability of social workers to provide a professional service to adopted adults and birth parents and their relatives. The current practice of providing non-identifying information has been overshadowed by concerns that this would be regarded as a potential breach of these regulations and that lack of adherence would result in the imposition of extremely hefty agency fines. There is no longer any continuity in service provision as these regulations are being interpreted differently from one social work area to another. Information previously provided is no longer being made available causing confusion for service users and lack of confidence in social workers. Considerable social work time is being taken trying to resolve the dilemmas being posed by these regulations and is impinging on the ability to provide a personalised service to service users, many who are very vulnerable. It is contended that it was never the intention to apply GDPR regulations to the provision of background information in relation to adoption where there is not a need to protect the disclosure of non-identifying information. Exemption is the only way to now stop social workers continuing down a tortuous road of trying to provide a caring client focused service where the limitations of the current interpretations of GDPR regulations have almost brought the service to a standstill

29 in favour
No abstentions
1 against
Motion was carried

Motion 3

Proposed by: Kerry Cuskelly

Seconded by: Elaine Donnelly

On behalf of Social Workers in Adult Mental Health (SWAMH)

The AGM requests that the IASW board collaborate with the FORSA National Social Work Professional Committee to develop a clear rationale from a professional perspective on the need for Social Work Clinical Tutors in the workplace throughout the country to support social work student training.

Explanation: The profession does not have workplace Clinical Tutors to support student training – however Clinical Tutors have been allocated for other professions e.g. Nursing, medical. Social work student training courses are at the cusp of crises on a yearly basis due to a shortage of workplace clinical placements and lack of supports to facilitate these essential workplace placements. Completion of at least 1000hours (6 months) of Practice Placement Education in the workplace is mandatory to successfully complete the course and secure CORU registration and must be supported by the health service.

Amendment: develop a clear rationale from a professional perspective on the need for Social Work Tutors in the workplace throughout the country to support social work student training.

29 in favour
No abstentions
No-one against
Amended Motion was carried

Motion 4

Proposed by: Kerry Cuskelly

Seconded by: Elaine Donnelly

On behalf of Social Workers in Adult Mental Health (SWAMH)

The AGM requests that the IASW board collaborate with the FORSA National Social Work Professional Committee to develop a clear rationale from a professional perspective on the need for Social Work research Coordinators in the workplace throughout the country.

Explanation: The profession does not have workplace Research Coordinators to support enhancing and developing clinical expertise in social work– however posts similar to this have been allocated for other professions e.g. Nursing, medical.

29 in favour
No abstentions
No-one against
Motion was carried

Motion 5

Proposed by: Kerry Cuskelly

Seconded by: Elaine Donnelly

On behalf of Social Workers in Adult Mental Health (SWAMH)

The AGM requests that the IASW board collaborate with the FORSA National Social Work Professional Committee to develop a clear rationale from a professional perspective on the need for Social Work Advanced Practitioner posts throughout the country.

Explanation: Agreement through CHO negotiations (Forsa) to review HSCP career pathways.

Advanced Practitioner posts exist in other HSCP professions.

The National HSCP Office Strategy identifies the development of Advanced Practitioner posts as one of their key objectives.

The National Social Work Professional Committee have a "Social Work Structures" document which has already been advocating for the development of Advanced Practitioner posts to enhance to support social workers in remaining in clinical practice if they so choose, as a way to enhance and support expertise within the social work workforce etc.

28 in favour
1 abstention
No-one against
Motion was carried

Motion 6

Proposed by: Kerry Cuskelly

Seconded by: Elaine Donnelly

On behalf of Social Workers in Adult Mental Health (SWAMH)

The AGM requests that the IASW board collaborate with the FORSA National Social Work Professional Committee to develop a clear rationale from a professional perspective on the need for a national workforce planning review for Social Work together with a review of social work student training including assessment of capacity to train students in the workplace, overcoming barriers, supports required, creating capacity and determination of student numbers.

Amendment: National workforce planning review for Social Work together with a review of social work student practice in placement training

29 in favour
1 abstention
No-one against
Amended Motion was carried

Motion 7

Proposed by: Kerry Cuskelly

Seconded by: Elaine Donnelly

On behalf of Social Workers in Adult Mental Health (SWAMH)

The AGM requests that the IASW board collaborate with the FORSA National Social Work Professional Committee to develop a clear rationale from a professional perspective on the need to review the career pathway for social workers, which has not been the subject of review since the McHugh/Doran report 2004.

Explanation: In light of the changing structures within the health and social care services overall (CHO negotiations, Slainte Care Implementation), a review of social work career structures is timely. A letter on the CHO Operating Model from Head of Division, Eamonn Donnelly, FORSA, October 17th, 2018, states the following:

- "Confined competition in each CHO area for Grades IV to VII, for filling of support structure posts.
- Significant progress on advancing successful claims for Therapy Managers In Charge III claims.
- Agreement to review career pathway for Health and social care Professionals, which has not been the subject of review since the McHugh/Doran report 2004. An assurance that the introduction of network manager posts will not result in a reduction of therapy manager posts".

29 in favour
No abstentions
No-one against
Motion was carried

Motion 8
Proposed by: Ann Byrne
Seconded by: Anne O'Loughlin

In the 2019 Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics for Social Workers:
http://coru.ie/uploads/documents/2019_03_06_SWRB_Code_for_Website.pdf the term Family is not included. Family Work is a central to the work Social Workers do every day.

Currently Page 5 of the Social Work Registration Board Code of Professional Conduct & Ethics reads:
In this document:

- 'You must' is used as an overriding principle or duty.
- 'You must not' is used as an absolute prohibition.
- 'You should' is used to describe the course of action that is generally best practice, but acknowledges that another approach may be appropriate in particular circumstances, or that there may be factors outside your control that affect your ability to comply.
- The term "service users" includes service users, patients, clients, and anyone else who uses your service. In addition to complying with this Code, you also have a duty to keep up-to date with legislation or legal developments that affect your professional practice.

Explanation: This omission must be corrected to ensure that this essential and important work is acknowledged in the Professional Code of Practice. Social Workers work with Children and their Families and Individual Adults, so our clients are families. This is an importance component of our role. We are calling on IASW to address this with CORU as a matter of urgency.

Amendment: The term "service users" includes service users, families, patients, clients, and anyone else who uses your service.

29 in favour
No abstentions
No-one against
Motion was carried

Emergency Motion 1
Proposed by: Sarah Donnelly
Seconded by: Kerry Cuskelly

This AGM has serious concerns about the direction of the revised CORU Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics in which CORU appears to have moved away from the core principles of social work, particularly in relation to the social work profession's foundations of social justice and human rights. The AGM therefore calls on the Board of the Association to request CORU to withdraw the current edition of the Code and to align a new version of it with the core principles of social work as laid down by the International Federation of Social Workers' Statement of Ethical Principles.

Explanatory: The current version of the Code has moved significantly away from some important elements that were contained in the previous iteration. Most notably, reference to the pursuit of social justice as a core value of social work have been taken from its rightful position at the opening of the document and placed at the end.

Reference to upholding human rights as a core principle of social work has been deleted.

The demand to 'respect the inherent dignity and worth of persons' has also been deleted and replaced by the demand for social workers to act in the 'best interest' of those who use their service (CORU Code p6). The 'best interest' principle goes against contemporary beliefs and is contrary to the Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Act 2015. Current thinking views the 'best interest' principle as being paternalistic and against a rights-based approach to work. The 2015 Act does not allow 'best interest' to be used as the basis for decision-making by professionals, so there is an immediate conflict.

The Code for social work should be much more discipline-specific than it is now in order to ensure that the profession's aims and values are immediately apparent to any reader.

29 in favour
No abstentions
No-one against
Motion was carried

AGM MOTIONS 2018

Motion 1
Proposed by: The IASW Board of Directors

Seconded by: Anette O'Callaghan

Existing Article 53. The Directors shall be elected each year at the Annual General Meeting of the Company and shall hold office until the next AGM. All members will be eligible for election but before submitting their nomination for election to the Board, they must be nominated by at least two other members (but excluding a nomination by herself or himself) whose membership is valid at the time of the nomination. Nominations should be sent in writing to the registered office of the Company at least 5 days before the AGM. Nominations may be sought at the AGM in the event that not enough nominations for all positions have been received.

Explanation: The Directors of the Board believe that Directors should seek support outside of the Board when looking to be re-elected. This is to prevent the Board operating as or being perceived as operating in a vacuum. This is also in line with good governance.

Amendment: Article 53. The Directors shall be elected each year at the Annual General Meeting of the Company and shall hold office until the next AGM. All members will be eligible for election but before submitting their nomination for election to the Board, they must be nominated by at least two other members (but excluding a nomination by herself or himself or a current Director of the IASW) whose membership is valid at the time of the nomination. Nominations should be sent in writing to the registered office of the Company at least 5 days before the AGM. Nominations may be sought at the AGM in the event that not enough nominations for all positions have been received.

**49 in favour
No abstentions
No-one against
Amended Motion was carried**

Motion 2
Proposed by: The IASW Board of Directors
Seconded by: Aine McGuirk

Existing Rule: Section 3: Council & Special Interest Groups

3:2:10: Special Interest Groups, Associate Groups and Committee shall adhere to the Association's Guidelines for Financial Management & Event Planning.

Explanation: Where relevant, to ensure that new guidelines, policies, protocols etc. encompass all members of Council; Special Interest Groups, Associate Groups and Committees. The Group Protocol was discussed at Council(s) meetings during the year and was widely supported, this motion followed a previous motion of 2017, which would have required all members of SIGs to be IASW members. This had been removed from the protocol. The IASW Board believes that the SIGs are a vital element within the IASW and it is crucial that the committee members are IASW members and have an understanding of the IASW as a whole.

Amendment to the Rule: 3:2:10: Special Interest Groups and Committee shall adhere to the Association's Guidelines for Financial Management, Guidelines & Application Form for CPD Funding & Group Protocol.

48 in favour
1 abstention
No-one against
Amended Motion was carried

Motion 3

Proposed by: The IASW Board of Directors
Seconded by: Aine McGuirk

Existing Rule: Section 3: Council & Special Interest Groups

3:2:3: Application to form a Special Interest Group shall be approved by the Board of Directors, Special Interest Groups shall operate to the agreed policy and procedures of the Association.

Explanation: To ensure newly formed Special Interest Groups operate in accordance with the Guidelines for Setting up a Special Interest Group, in the best of interest of good governance & financial practices, understanding roles & responsibilities of committee members, and have effective meetings. The newly formed special interest groups will follow the SIG protocols.

Amendment to the Rule: 3:2:3: Application to form a Special Interest Group shall be approved by the Board of Directors, Special Interest Groups shall operate to the agreed policy and procedures of the Association, including but not limited to; the Guidelines for Setting up a Special Interest Group.

49 in favour
No abstentions
No-one against
Amended Motion was carried

Motion 4

Proposed by: The IASW Board of Directors
Seconded by: Aine McGuirk

Existing Rule: Section 1: Membership – Criteria 1:1:

a. Social workers who hold a social work qualification recognised by the former CQSW recognised by the CCETSW, the National Social Work Qualification Board or who are registered as social workers with the Social Work Registration Board of CORU.

c. Social workers who have retired, currently non-working (i.e. on sabbatical, working in a non-social work post), or are unemployed but who hold a social work qualification recognised by the former CQSW recognised by the CCETSW, the National Social Work Qualification Board or who are registered as social workers with the Social Work Registration Board of CORU.

Explanation: In order to use the protected title of Social Worker, Social Workers MUST register with the Social Work Registration Board CORU. Therefore, members of the association who are not registered with CORU, cannot use this protected title.

Amendment to the Rules:

a. Individuals who hold a social work qualification including the NQSW awarded by the National Social Work Qualification Board, the CQSW formerly awarded by CCETSW or who are registered as social workers with the Social Work Registration Board of CORU.

c. Individuals who have retired, currently non-working (i.e. on sabbatical, working in a non-social work post), or are unemployed but who hold a social work qualification including the NQSW awarded by the National Social Work Qualification Board, the CQSW formerly awarded by CCETSW or who are registered as social workers with the Social Work Registration Board of CORU.

Proposed change to the amendment to the Rules:

a. Individuals who hold a social work qualification including the NQSW awarded by the National Social Work Qualification Board, the CQSW formerly awarded by CCETSW or who are recognised as social workers by the Social Work Registration Board of CORU.

c. Individuals who have retired, currently non-working (i.e. on sabbatical, students on recognised social work qualifications, working in a non-social work post), or are unemployed but who hold a social work qualification including the NQSW awarded by the National Social Work Qualification Board, the CQSW formerly awarded by CCETSW or who are registered as social workers with the Social Work Registration Board of CORU.

Votes for the Amendment of rules (a) and (c)

47 in favour

No abstentions

2 against

Amended Motion was carried

Votes for the Amendment of rules (a) and (c)

49 in favour

No abstentions

No-one against

Amended Motion was carried

Motion 4

Proposed by: The IASW Board of Directors

Seconded by: John Brennan

The IASW calls upon the Department of Health to review the Nursing Home Support Scheme with all relevant parties, to ensure that provision is made for the cost of social activities within each nursing home, so that every resident living in a nursing home has disposable income as intended by the Scheme.

Explanation: Members have advised that in the Greater Dublin area, many nursing homes, to fund additional day time activities are charging residents additional charges and leaving them with little or no income at all, (even necessitating them to use their savings). IASW believes that it is a matter for the National Treatment Purchase Fund and Department of Health via changes to Nursing Home Support Scheme (policy and legislation) to address this situation and IASW will work proactively with advocacy groups to advocate on behalf of those affected.

**49 in favour
No abstentions
No-one against
Motion was carried**

Motion 6

Proposed by: Éadaoin Ní Bhroin
Seconded by: Louise Timmins

- I- That the IASW call upon the Department of Health and the HSE to support the recruitment of Primary Care Social Workers to the required level as stated in the 2001 Primary Care Strategy ie: .5 / 1 Primary Care Social Workers per primary care team
- II- That the IASW call upon the Department of Health and the HSE to develop a proper and effective career structure and governance for Primary Care Social Worker's and to create career development opportunities for Professionally Qualified (Primary Care) Social Workers to Senior Practitioner, Team Leader and Principal grades.

Explanation:

- There are currently only 3 Permanent Primary Care Principal's, 7 Permanent Team Leaders and 5 Senior Practitioners in Primary Care Social Work Services in Ireland. There are 6 counties in Ireland without any Primary Care Social Work cover: Mayo, Carlow, Kilkenny, Waterford, Louth and Leitrim and a number of counties with only partial cover i.e. Cork, Kerry, Tipperary and Galway and other counties with 1 social worker for the whole county i.e. Sligo.
- There are 366 Primary Care Teams in Ireland (details taken from the HSE's Health Atlas), and only approximately 80 Primary Care Social Workers. This figure of 80 social workers is 103 less than the minimum if there was to be .5 Social Worker per Primary Care team. The 2001 Primary Care Strategy states that there should be .5/1 Social Worker per primary care team throughout Ireland. We are advocating for each Community Health Organisation to have a Primary Care Social Worker in each

primary care team. A proper career structure ensures proper governance which as a result has a positive outcome for our service users. Current staffing levels mean that people living in some counties in Ireland have no access to a primary care social worker service and in other counties there is limited access to a social work services in primary care.

- Furthermore, there is a lack of recruitment opportunities available for Primary Care Social Workers which has also resulted in geographical areas with no social work cover, i.e: when Primary Care Social Worker's leave these posts to progress their career in other social work areas. There are also some Primary Care Social Workers that are currently completing duties that fall into the job description of a Principal, Team Leader and Senior Practitioner. Where this is the case, we are asking the IASW to consider the upgrading of their positions to the appropriate level by the HSE.

49 in favour
No abstentions
No-one against
Motion was carried

Motion 7

Proposed by: Barbara McDonough

Seconded by: Michelle Losty

The IASW calls upon the government to immediately increase the funding allocated for home care packages and to have access to home care available on a statutory basis.

Explanation:

- This is a serious and long-standing national issue.
- Restrictions in place to different degrees nationally re accessing HCPs for both under and over 65 age groups.
- In some CHOs no new HCPs or increases to existing HCPs are being approved by the HSE.
- This is reportedly due to a lack of HSE funding being available to meet the need.
- This is leaving Service Users with unmet needs, unsafe and at risk in the community.
- It is adding to carer stress which is leading to breakdowns in care arrangements and relationships.
- Service Users & their carers have reported feeling pressured into going in to LTC as there is no safe alternative when no HCP available.
- Service Users are not having their wishes / right to self-determination respected or followed.
- The only way to access a HCP is through acute hospital under the winter initiative thus putting increased pressure on acute services unnecessarily.

49 in favour
No abstentions
No-one against
Motion was carried

Motion 8

That this association call on Government to address the deepening crises in our fostering services through developing initiatives to alleviate the severe staffing shortage by establishing additional social work training opportunities, promoting more flexible recruitment policies and exploring strategies to retain social work professionals within child care services. Such initiatives could form an interim measure while awaiting the more comprehensive response which this association has already called for via the establishment of a Working Party on Foster Care.

Explanation: Social workers in many parts of the country are struggling to identify and support sufficient numbers of suitable foster placements capable of responding to the demands made on the service. Fluctuating staff levels and protracted vacancies within Fostering Teams compound this. While the numbers of children in care have peaked in the past three years, the legacy of inadequate resourcing continues to have a detrimental impact on Tusla's ability to deliver adequate levels of service in many areas. A root and branch analysis of how the relevant state agencies and Government departments respond to the needs of children within foster care is urgently needed so that effective solutions can be pursued.

Amendment: That this association call on Government to address the deepening crises in our fostering services through developing initiatives to alleviate the severe staffing shortage by establishing additional social work training opportunities, promoting effective recruitment policies and exploring strategies to retain social work professionals within child care services. Such initiatives could form an interim measure while awaiting the more comprehensive response which this association has already called for via the establishment of a Working Party on Foster Care.

49 in favour
No abstentions
No-one against
Amended Motion was carried

Motion 9

Proposed by: Cahal McHale

Seconded by: Harold Barber

That this association calls on HIQA to reject any request from Tusla to temporarily suspend its inclusion of certain requirements under Standard 15 of the National Standards in Foster Care which require that Link Work duties be carried out by qualified social workers.

Explanation: HIQA regularly refer to the fact that their role is to inspect the performance of agencies under the criteria laid down within the National Standards drawn up by government. However, while they do not set the standards, they do have discretion under which standards they will select to carry out specific inspections. As the body that represents Professional Social Workers, the IASW is committed to maintaining high standards in Social Work practice and where appropriate draw attention to any attempts to erode established Social Work roles.

Amendment: That this association calls on HIQA and DCYA to reject any request from Tusla to temporarily suspend its inclusion of certain requirements under Standard 15 of the National Standards in Foster Care which require that Link Work duties be carried out by qualified social workers.

Motion 10

Proposed by: Cahal McHale

Seconded by: Harold Barber

That this association calls on Tusla to withdraw its proposal to request HIQA to temporarily suspend its consideration of the requirements under Standard 15 of the National Standards in Foster Care which require that Link Work duties be carried out only by a qualified social worker.

Explanation: It was strongly advocated when the National Standards in Foster Care were being drawn up, that social workers should specifically be named as the profession tasked with carrying out the important work of supervision and support of foster carers as part of the range of duties of recruitment, assessment and support of foster placements. It would be a serious retrograde step if these responsibilities were to be open to assignment to other disciplines at the discretion of an agency.

Amendment: That this association calls on Tusla and DCYA to withdraw its proposal to request HIQA to temporarily suspend its consideration of the requirements under Standard 15 of the National Standards in Foster Care which require that Link Work duties be carried out only by a qualified social worker.

Amendment to Motions 9 & 10

49 in favour

No abstentions

No-one against

Amended Motion was carried

Amended Motion 9 & 10

42 in favour

7 abstentions

No-one against

Amended Motion was carried

Frank advised the attendees that the Board has prepared a Memo in relation to this motion, a copy which was included in the participant pack.

Frank asked the attendees, if their preference was to vote by; show of hands or by secret ballot:

Votes for show of hands
48 in favour
Motion was carried

Motion 11
Proposed by: Maria McGloughlin
Seconded by: Maeve Foreman

That this Association supports the repeal of the 8th Amendment of the Constitution of Ireland as proposed by the Oireachtas because it has been found to adversely affect the health and well-being of communities of women that our members support and work with and purpose that the Association issue a statement to this effect.

Explanation: On the 25th of May, the Irish electorate will be asked to vote on a proposal to amend the 8th Amendment to allow provision for regulation of termination of pregnancy. The 13th Amendment of the Constitution provides that the 8th Amendment would not limit freedom to travel between Ireland and other states, allowing women to travel freely to other countries for a termination of pregnancy.

Social Work is a profession that acknowledges structural inequality in our society and strives to promote egalitarian values. The most vulnerable women do not have the resources to travel and as such are denied access to termination of pregnancy purely on foot of their financial standing; as demonstrated by the Citizen's Assembly this is something that is currently available to women who have access to a passport, citizenship, financial resources and family support. Vulnerable women, women experiencing homelessness, seeking international protection whether in direct provision or not, experiencing domestic abuse, and women in poverty are discriminated against in a system that is permissive of terminations abroad once you have access to resources. Additionally, women and girls who have applied for asylum in Ireland are prohibited by Section 16 (3)(a) of the International Protection Act 2015 from leaving the state without the consent of the Minister for Justice. To do so constitutes an offence. Furthermore, asylum seekers are disenfranchised in the forthcoming referendum.

As social workers, self-determination, and the right to have a choice to make decisions in respect of an individual's own belief system and personal values is at the core of an empowering practice. By supporting the repeal of the 8th amendment social workers support service users to make decisions in respect of their own health care, and family needs.

39 in favour
No abstentions
9 against
Motion was carried

AGM MOTIONS 2017

Motion 1

Proposed by: The IASW Board of Directors

Seconded by: Frank Browne

Existing Rule: Section 3: Council & Special Interest Groups

3:2:10 Special Interest Groups, Associate Groups and Committee shall adhere to the Association's Guidelines for Financial Management & Event Planning.

Explanation: Where relevant, to ensure that new guidelines, policies, protocols etc. encompass all members of Council; Special Interest Groups, Associate Groups and Affiliated Groups. The Group Protocol was discussed at Council meetings during the year and was widely supported, this motion followed a previous motion of 2016, which would have required all members of SIGs to be IASW members. The Group Protocol will require all members of the SIG committee who make the day to day decisions for the SIG to be members. Currently only the Chair and Sec are required to be members. There are other requirements within the SIG protocol which mirror the best practices of limited companies and the IASW Board, allowing rotation from the committee after continuous term of 6 years for general committee members. Also, there is a requirement that the re-election to the role of Chair or Sec. should only be for three years. IASW Board believes succession planning is important and key roles of Chair and Sec should have a clear time span for those volunteering for the role. The IASW Board believes that the SIGs are a vital element within the IASW, and it is crucial that the committee members are IASW members and have an understanding of the IASW as a whole.

Amendment to the Rule: 3:2:10 Special Interest Groups, Associate Groups and Committee shall adhere to the Association's Guidelines for Financial Management, CPD Funding & Group Protocol.

14 in favour

3 abstentions

19 against

Motion NOT carried

Motion 2

Proposed by: The IASW Board of Directors

Seconded by: Frank Browne

Existing Rule: Section 3: Council & Special Interest Groups

3:2:3 Application to form a Special Interest Group shall be approved by the Board of Directors, Special Interest Groups shall operate to the agreed policy and procedures of the Association.

Explanation: To ensure newly formed Special Interest Groups operate in accordance with the Guidelines for Setting up a Special Interest Group, in the best of interest of good governance & financial practices,

understanding roles & responsibilities of committee members, and have effective meetings. The newly formed special interest groups will follow the SIG protocols.

Amendment to the Rule: 3:2:3 Application to form a Special Interest Group shall be approved by the Board of Directors, Special Interest Groups shall operate to the agreed policy and procedures of the Association, including but not limited to; the Guidelines for Setting up a Special Interest Group.

**Motion NOT carried
Fell with Motion 1**

Motion 3
Proposed by: The IASW Board of Directors
Seconded by: Aine McGuirk

Existing Rule: Section 2: Ethics & Values

2:1. Members are required to adhere to the following:

- a) IASW Code of Ethics and Code of Practice
- b) IASW Rules and Byelaws
- c) In addition, members who are registered as social workers will be required to adhere to the CORU/ Social Workers Registration Board's Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics.

Explanation: Both these documents (a) and (b) have been reviewed by a working group and were deemed to be outdated in terms of best practices and in the light of the CORU code which addresses all important points within the previous IASW documents. All social workers must abide by CORU Code of conduct and ethics for social workers. This document is to be reviewed and IASW will play an active part in this process. IASW may develop an updated code of conduct and ethics in addition to the CORU code of conduct and ethics following the recommendations of any subsequent working group.

Amendment to the Rule: 2:1. Members are required to adhere to the following:

- a) Members who are registered as social workers will be required to adhere to the CORU/ Social Workers Registration Board's Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics.

**** Withdrawn by the Board ****

Motion 4
Proposed by: The IASW Board of Directors
Seconded by: Aine McGuirk

Existing Rule: Section 1: Membership

1:2: Members of the Association shall be subject to the Association's code of ethics and practice and the Association's Rules and Byelaws and/or CORU Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics of Social Workers, and a breach of these may result in termination of membership under Article 5 of the Articles of Association

Explanation: Both these documents (a) and (b) have been reviewed by a working group and were deemed to be outdated in terms of best practices and in the light of the CORU code which addresses all important points within the previous IASW documents. (All social workers must abide by CORU Code of conduct and ethics for social workers. This document is to be reviewed and IASW will play an active part in this process. IASW may develop an updated code of conduct and ethics in addition to the CORU code of conduct and ethics following the recommendations of any subsequent working group.

Amendment to the Rule: 1:2: Members of the Association shall be subject to the CORU Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics of Social Workers, and a breach of this may result in termination of membership under Article 5 of the Articles of Association.

**** Withdrawn by the Board ****

Motion 5
Proposed by: The IASW Board of Directors
Seconded by: Frank Browne

IASW calls upon the Government to fund and legislate for a statutory social work service for vulnerable adults, including those with a mental health, intellectual or a physical disability, etc. HSE National Safeguarding Office defines a vulnerable person as; "an adult who may be restricted in capacity to guard him or herself against harm or exploitation or to report such harm or exploitation"

Explanation: Ireland does not have a statutory social work service for adults as a result many vulnerable persons can fall within the gaps of care. The Assisted Decision Making (Capacity) Act 2015 and Safeguarding (Bill) 2017 will require quality services for vulnerable people. There is evidence within the UK of how social workers can address these requirements. Undertaking capacity assessments and care co-ordinating for vulnerable persons. Clearly primary care teams in particular will need to be fully staffed in terms of the recommended numbers of social workers and enhanced following a review of the assessed needs.

19 in favour
1 abstention
4 against
Motion was carried

Motion 6

Proposed by: The IASW Board of Directors
Seconded by: Aine McGuirk

That the Constitution be approved and adopted as the new Constitution of the Company in substitution and to the exclusion of all existing Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Explanation: The company's name was automatically changed on 1st December 2016. This did not include updating the company's name on its existing Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Under the 1963 – 2013 Acts, a CLG has a separate memorandum and articles of association. Under the 2014 Act, a CLG has a constitution which is a two-part document containing a memorandum and articles. Although not required, it is recommended that a CLG adopts a new constitution which is based on the new 2014 Act as opposed to their existing memorandum and articles based on the 1963 – 2013 Acts. This allows the CLG access new provisions in the 2014 Act which are not available under the 1963 – 2013 Acts and ensures that the current memorandum and articles of association do not conflict with any mandatory rules under the 2014 Act.

Motion was carried unanimously

Motion 7

Proposed by: Cahal McHale
Seconded by: Karen Hope

On behalf of Social Workers in Foster Care (SWIFC)

That this association calls on the Minister for Children & Youth Affairs to establish a Working Party to review Foster Care provision and progress the further development of the service for children in care, based on the recommendations of the SWIFC/IASW discussion document – “Foster Care: Envisioning the Future” published in March 2017

Explanation: The context for the SWIFC motion arose from a range of proposals the committee considered for promoting the recommendations within the discussion document. It was felt that a motion at the AGM would draw attention of the membership to the document and the issues highlighted within it and also reinforce the IASW board's mandate to lobby Government, specifically the Minister, on the recommendations it sets out.

Motion was carried unanimously

AGM MOTIONS 2016

Motion 1

Proposed by: Donal O'Malley, Chairperson IASW

Seconded by: The IASW Board of Directors
On behalf of the IASW Board of Directors

The Board of the IASW set up a task force to review the feasibility of evoking a change to Rule 3:2:3 of the IASW Rules & Byelaws and to explore all avenues to increase membership of the Association as per the IASW strategy

Existing Rule: 3:2:3: The Chair, Secretary and Treasurer of the Special Interest Group shall be members of the Association.

Explanation: The Board of the IASW are proposing to 'phase-out' non-members joining Special Interest Groups, in order to prohibit non-members from using the professional body, it's funds, resources and staff without paying the appropriate membership fee.

Amendment: 3:2:3: All members of the Special Interest Group shall be members of the Association, as of June 2017

**** Withdrawn by the Board ****

It was proposed instead that the Board set up two task forces:

1) develop a membership strategy and 2) to look at SIG Structures

Motion 2

Proposed by: Donal O'Malley, Chairperson IASW

Seconded by: The IASW Board of Directors
On behalf of the IASW Board of Directors

Alteration to the IASW Rules & Byelaws.

Rule pertaining to Section 3: Council & Special Interest Groups.

Amendment to the Rules & Byelaws.

Existing Rules: Section 1 Membership Criteria

1.1. The membership of the Association shall consist of:

A. Social workers who hold a social work qualification recognised by the former CQSW recognised by the CCETSW, the National Social Work Qualification Board or who are registered as social workers with the Social Work Registration Board of CORU.

B. Overseas members need also be registered by a relevant registration board as outlined above.

C. Social workers who have retired, currently non-working (i.e. on sabbatical, working in a non-social work post), or are unemployed but who hold a social work qualification recognised by the former CQSW recognised by the CCETSW, the National Social Work Qualification Board or who are registered as social workers with the Social Work Registration Board of CORU.

D. Student members being persons undergoing a recognised undergraduate course of studies in Social Work or a recognised post graduate course under conditions prescribed by the Board of the Association.

Explanation: In order to ensure the Board, have the necessary professional skills and expertise to achieve the associations Strategic Priorities, the Board of Directors are looking to amend the Rules and Byelaws to elect a Commercial Director to the Board. The Board believe that a diverse, well balanced board can make better decisions and will bring more general skills, outside of Social Work i.e. Much needed skills brought onto the boards in areas such as Marketing/PR/Finance/Legal. Board is refreshed and re-energised with injection of new blood and fresh ideas.

Increased board diversity. The association can be exposed to a whole new network of contacts i.e. Media Contacts, Potential Funders, etc.

Rule Addition: E. On the invitation of the Chair, a Commercial Person who is not a Member of the Company may be co-opted to the Board either to fill a vacancy or as an additional Director provided that the appointment does not cause the number of Directors to exceed the maximum number of Directors. That person so co-opted shall remain a Member of the Board only until the next Annual General Meeting, when s/he shall retire and may stand for re-election at that AGM.

**20 in favour
3 abstentions
11 against
Motion was carried**

Motion 3

Proposed by: Donal O'Malley, Chairperson IASW

Seconded by: The IASW Board of Directors

On behalf of the IASW Board of Directors

Alteration to the IASW Rules & Byelaws.

Rule pertaining to Section 3: Council & Special Interest Groups.

Amendment to the Rules & Byelaws.

Existing Rule: 3:2:1 Special Interest Groups are formed by members who seek to pursue the best interests of service users and promote the professional development of social workers.

Explanation: To clarify the difference between an IASW Special Interest Group and an Associate.

Amendment to the Rule:

3:2:1 Special Interest Groups are formed by members who seek to pursue the best interests of service users and promote the professional development of social workers. Special Interest Groups are open to social workers of any grade.

3:2:2 Associate group are formed by members who seek to pursue the best interests of service users and promote the professional development of social workers. Associate groups do not need to be open to social workers from any grade.

44 in favour
1 abstention
No-one against
Amended Motion was carried

Motion 4

Proposed by: Aine Davin

Seconded by: Anna Carroll

On behalf of Social Workers in Adult Mental Health (SWAMH)

That the SWAMH committee call on the IASW to negotiate with the HSE so that proper resources and structures are put in place so that social workers can safely implement the "safeguarding vulnerable adults at risk of abuse" policy as per the CORU code of ethics and social work principal.

Explanation: A new HSE Social Care national policy "Safeguarding Vulnerable Persons at Risk of Abuse" (S.V.P.R.A.) has been introduced and was implemented in 2015 without adequate consultation with all stakeholders, both those inside the Social Care directorate and those in other areas such as mental health and Intellectual Disability.

Under this policy, the H.S.E Safeguarding and Protection Teams (S.P.T.'s) are monitoring and in effect line managing social work departments across the H.S.E and other H.S.E funded agencies with regard to their management of concerns about vulnerable adults. This is concerning from a fitness to practice perspective as there are no clear lines of accountability. It is also concerning that contrary to the statement on page 4 of the S.V.P.R.A. policy, in practice the previous Elder Abuse policy has not been subsumed into the new S.V.P.R.A. policy, persons over the age of 65 years do not have access to the Safeguarding and Protection Teams if they are outside the auspices of the social care division. This is discriminatory and means that a service that used to exist for those persons previously has been withdrawn without any notice or consultation with relevant stakeholders.

This policy also advises that where an adult is assessed as having capacity to make decisions, and decides not to give workers permission to pass on their information to the Safeguarding and Protection Teams (S.A.T's) the policy's instructions is to ignore these wishes, complete the relevant preliminary screening forms and forward to S.A.T. which in effect ignores the Service User's Constitutional right to privacy, legislation, and earlier comments in the policy about the presumption of decision-making capacity.

This motion calls for the I.A.S.W to speak out on our behalf, insist that clarity is provided and proper structures and resources are put in place so that we can practice safely and ethically as per our code of ethics and our professional standards and principles.

Amendment: That the SWAMH committee call on the IASW to continue to negotiate with the HSE so that proper resources and structures are put in place so that social workers can safely implement the “safeguarding vulnerable adults at risk of abuse” policy as per the CORU code of ethics and social work principals

Amended Motion was carried unanimously

AGM MOTIONS 2015

Motion 1

Proposed by: Donal O'Malley, Chairperson

Seconded by: Aisling Coffey, Treasurer

Alteration to the IASW Rules & Byelaws.

New Rule; 3:2:12 – Special Interest Groups, Affiliate Groups & Associate Groups shall submit a short-written report on their Groups activities at least three working day prior to each Council Meeting.

Explanation: In submitting a short report prior to the Council Meeting, the Group(s) are assisting the Office Manager with the minute taking and keeping the Council section on the website up to date.

Motion was carried unanimously

Motion 2

Proposed by: Donal O'Malley, Chairperson

Seconded by: Frank Browne, Vice Chair

Alternation to the IASW Rules & Byelaws.

Existing Rule: 3:2:4: The Chair of the Special Interest Group or a nominee who is a member of the Association shall attend Council meetings.

Amendment: 3:2:4: The Chair of the Special Interest Group & Affiliate Group or a nominee who is a member of the Association shall attend Council meetings.

Existing Rule: 3:2:6: Special Interest Groups shall prepare an annual report on their activities and membership each year in advance of the Association's AGM.

Amendment: 3:2:6: Special Interest Groups & Affiliated Groups shall prepare an annual report on their activities and membership each year in advance of the Association's AGM.

Existing Rule: 3:2:7: Special Interest Groups shall not operate a separate bank account.

Amendment: 3:2:7: Special Interest Groups and Affiliated Groups shall not operate a separate bank account.

Existing Rule: 3:2:8: Up to date information regarding the contact details of the Executive Officers of each Special Interest Group shall be forwarded to the Association.

Amendment: 3:2:8: Up to date information regarding the contact details of the Executive Officers of each Special Interest Group & Affiliate Group shall be forwarded to the Association.

Existing Rule: 3:2:9: Special Interest Groups shall adhere to the Association's Guidelines for Financial Management and Event Planning.

Amendment: 3:2:9: Special Interest Groups & Affiliated Groups shall adhere to the Association's Guidelines for Financial Management and Event Planning.

Amended Motion was carried unanimously

Motion 3

Proposed by: Donal O'Malley, Chairperson

Seconded by: Clodagh Donnelly, Director

Amendment to the IASW Rules & Byelaws.

Section 1: Membership.

Existing Rule: 1:2: Members of the Association shall be subject to the Association's code of ethics and practice and the Association's Rules and Byelaws and a breach of these may result in termination of membership under Article 5 of the Articles of Association.

Article 5 A member of the Company shall cease to be a member:

(a) If by Notice in writing to the Secretary of the Company s/he resigns his membership.

(b) If any member shall refuse or wilfully neglect to comply with any of these Articles of Association or shall have been guilty of such conduct as in the opinion of the Directors either shall have rendered her/him unfit to remain a member of the Company or shall be injurious to the Company or if the Directors shall for any other good reason require that a member shall be expelled such members may by a Resolution of the Directors be expelled from membership provided that s/he shall have been given notice of the intended resolution for her/his expulsion and shall have been afforded an opportunity of giving orally or in writing to the Directors any explanation or defence as s/he may think fit. Notice under this Article shall be deemed to have been served if it is sent by post in accordance with the provisions set out in Article 65 of these Articles whether or not it is actually received by the member intended to be served with such notice.

Amendment: 1:2: Members of the Association shall be subject to the Association's code of ethics and practice, the Association's Rules and Byelaws and/or CORU Code of Professional Conduct & Ethics for Social Workers and a breach of these may result in termination of membership under Article 5 of the Articles of Association.

**25 in favour
5 abstentions
11 against
Amended Motion was carried**

AGM MOTIONS 2014

Motion 1

Proposed by: Donal O'Malley, Treasurer of IASW

Seconded by: Frank Browne, Vice Chair of IASW

Alteration to the IASW Rules & Byelaw's.
Rule pertaining to Membership Criteria.

Existing Rule: 1.1: Social workers who have retired but who had previously held a social work qualification recognised by the former National Social Work Qualification Board, or who are registered as social workers with the Social work registration Board of CORU.

Amendment: 1.1 (C) Membership Criteria: Social workers who have retired, currently non-working (i.e. on sabbatical, working in a non-social work post), or are unemployed but who hold a social work qualification recognised by the former CQSW recognised by the CCETSW, the National Social Work Qualification Board or who were registered as social workers with the Social Work Registration Board of CORU.

Amended Motion was carried unanimously

Motion 2

Proposed by: Donal O'Malley, Treasurer of IASW

Seconded by: Joe McCarthy, Director of IASW

Alteration to the IASW Rules & Byelaw's.
Rule pertaining to Section 3: Council & Special Interest Groups.

Existing Rule: Section 3:2 Rule 3:2:7: Special Interest Groups shall prepare a financial report regarding all financial accounts managed by that Special Interest Group and forward the financial report to the Association as part of the Association's obligation to complete a financial audit of accounts.

Amendment: Section 3:2 Rule 3:2:7: Special Interest Groups shall not operate a separate bank account.

Amended Motion was carried unanimously

AGM MOTIONS 2013

Motion 1

Proposed by: Frank Browne, IASW Director

Seconded by: Billie Anne Johnston, IASW Director and Secretary

IASW calls upon the HSE to ensure that all the newly appointed social workers in mental health services have access to line management social work supervision.

Explanation: Approximately 70 social workers were recruited for child and adult community mental health teams via the Government funding for the national mental health clinical programmes. IASW/SWAMH/CAMHS are aware that a number of social workers do not have a reporting relationship to a social work line manager and supervisor.

Motion was carried unanimously

Motion 2

Proposed by: Frank Browne, IASW Director

Seconded by: Kerry Cuskelly, IASW Director

IASW calls upon the HSE to ensure that all the newly appointed social workers in mental health services have access to a computer and desk space.

Explanation: Approximately 70 social workers were recruited for child and adult community mental health teams via the Government funding for the national mental health clinical programmes. IASW/SWAMH/CAMS are aware that a number of social workers do not have access to office facilities, such as a desk or a computer.

Motion was carried unanimously

Motion 3

Proposed by: Frank Browne, IASW Director

Seconded by: Billie Anne Johnston, IASW Director and Secretary

IASW calls upon the HSE to revert the decision March 2013 to remove social workers from the exemption grades for replacement and ensure that all social workers who resign or retire are replaced on a one for one principle again.

Explanation: IASW is concerned that a recent HSE Circular 005/2013, removes the exemption grades such as social workers from the employment controls arrangement, this means that in order to fill any post the 2 for 1 principle applies.

Motion was carried unanimously

Motion 4

Proposed by: Kerry Cuskelly, IASW Director

Seconded by: Frank Browne, IASW Director

The IASW calls upon the HSE, the Department of Environment and Local Government, all County Councils, all Housing Associations, and all other relevant stakeholders to implement the National Housing Strategy for People with a Disability 2011-2016 Implementation Framework.

Explanation: We are currently experiencing an increasing housing crisis across the country, in relation to the marginalised populations that social workers engage with. The National Housing Strategy for People with a Disability 2011-2016 Implementation Framework was published in July 2012. It's vision is to "facilitate access, for people with disabilities, to the appropriate range of housing and related support services, delivered in an integrated and sustainable manner, which promotes equality of opportunity, individual choice and independent living" (pg. 2). However, the IASW is aware that in certain areas of the country, local county councils are drafting housing policies that directly contravene the National Implementation Plan. In certain areas county councils are actively not building local authority houses or increasing their social housing provision due to "lack of interest". There are also no local cross-sectional committee's in some areas. These committees should be in place in every area to actively address the strategic aims of the Implementation Plan.

Motion was carried unanimously

Motion 5

Proposed by: Kerry Cuskelly – IASW Director

Seconded by: Frank Browne – IASW Director

Following on from the previous motion, The IASW calls upon the HSE, the Department of Environment and Local Government, all County Councils, all Housing Associations and all other relevant stakeholders to ensure

that the core members of the local cross-sectional committee's focused on implementing the National Housing Strategy for People with a Disability 2011-2016 Implementation Framework is made up of all relevant frontline staff and stakeholders.

Explanation: It is crucial that the membership of the cross-sectional committee's include frontline social workers in mental health and disability, service users (or their advocates) and other relevant stakeholders who work on the frontline. The IASW does not accept "lack of resources" as an excuse for not forming these committees or addressing the housing crisis to date.

Motion was carried unanimously

AGM MOTIONS 2012

Motion 1

Proposed by: Jason Watson, IASW Executive Member

Seconded by: Ineke Durville, President IASW

The IASW Executive request permission from the A.G.M to make an Application to become a Company Limited by Guarantee.

Explanation: as the current set up of the Association leaves its Executive Members open to personal Litigation, should a member decide to take Legal Action against the Association. The Executive wish to protect themselves now and any future members of the Executive, by becoming a Company Limited by Guarantee, under The Companies (Act) 1963/1990.

84 in favour
4 abstentions
No-one against
Motion was carried

Motion 2

Proposed by: Jason Watson, IASW Executive Member

Seconded by: Ineke Durville, President IASW

If the Application to become a Company Limited by Guarantee is to be made then the IASW Constitution, as it stands has to be changed, in order to meet the requirements of the Act. The Executive requests permission from the AGM to adopt the Memorandum and Articles in place of the current Constitution.

Explanation: The Executive sent the proposed Memorandum and Articles to every member of the Association for their consideration. The current Constitution of the Association does not meet the requirements of the Companies Acts 1963/1990. The new Memo & Arts do meet the requirements of said Acts.

Motion was carried unanimously

Motion 3

Proposed by: Frank Browne, Member of IASW

Seconded by: Deirdre Jacob, Member of IASW

That this Association calls on the HSE to prioritise the implementation of the primary care strategy in regard to the requirement that every primary care team has a social worker as a core team member.

Explanation: For the first time in Ireland, since the development of the primary care strategy and the subsequent recruitment of primary care social workers, vulnerable adults who are not accessing specialist or secondary services have access to a social work service, however the primary care strategy that stated that each primary care team have at least .5 to 1 social work has not materialised, due to insufficient funding and also to some funding for social work posts being redirected to other uses.

Motion was carried unanimously

Motion 4

Proposed by: Frank Browne, Member of IASW

Seconded by: Ineke Durville, President IASW

That this Association calls on the Department of Children and other relevant Departments to ensure that Children and Families Services are adequately resourced, prior to the enactment of mandatory reporting (of children suspected of being abused or neglected).

Explanation: From the evidence of other jurisdictions mandatory reporting will inevitably lead to increased reporting of children at risk to children and families services, so to ensure that services undertake quality assessments and interventions, there will need to be an adequate social work service so as to filter out and allocate social workers to work with the children that are at risk.

Motion was carried unanimously

Motion 5

Proposed by: Declan Carey, Member of IASW

Seconded by: Donal O'Malley, Member of IASW

That this association calls on the Minister for Health and CORU to reduce the fees for registration for social workers immediately.

85 in favour
2 abstentions
1 against
Motion was carried

Motion 6

Proposed by: Declan Carey, Member of IASW
Seconded by: Donal O'Malley, Member of IASW

That this association calls on the Minister for Finance to have a clothing tax allowance for social workers included in the Finance Acts, as all other allied health professionals are entitled to this allowance.

5 in favour
5 abstentions
78 against
Motion NOT carried

Motion 7

Proposed by: Deirdre Jacob, Member of IASW
Seconded by: Patrice Reilly, Member of IASW

That the association calls on the HSE to work alongside Primary Care Social Workers and management to develop an appropriate management structure to support the development of primary care social work services in the community.

Explanation: There has never been an established management structure for PCSW's, most management arrangements have come as a result of local agreements and goodwill from managers from 'other services'. If we are to develop an effective PCSW service, there must be appropriate management structures based within the context of other primary care services under the new primary care management structure. This will also help to clarify arrangements for those PCSW's who are currently managed within the changing children and family's structure.

Motion was carried unanimously

AGM MOTIONS 2011

Motion 1

Proposed by: Donal O'Malley

Seconded by: Saragh McGarrigle

The IASW Executive request permission from the A.G.M to seek to make an Application to become a Company Limited by Guarantee.

Explanation; as the current set up of the Association leaves its Executive Members open to personal Litigation, should a member decide to take Legal Action against the Association. The Executive wish to protect themselves now and any future members of the Executive, by becoming a Company Limited by Guarantee, under The Companies (Act) 1963/1990.

Motion was carried unanimously

Motion 2

Proposed by: Donal O'Malley

Seconded by: Saragh McGarrigle

If the Application to become a Company Limited by Guarantee is to be made then the IASW Constitution, as it stands will have to be changed, in order to meet the requirements of the Act.

Explanation: The Executive propose to call an extraordinary A.G.M in order to inform the Association of the Proposed changes to the Constitution, prior to them actually being made.

Motion was carried unanimously

Motion 3

Proposed by: Roberta Mulligan

Seconded by: Declan Coogan

On behalf of Social Workers in Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMHS)

We call on IASW to explore the possibility of employing a social worker to work on behalf of members. In addition, that the IASW designate a member of the executive to the task of tracking CORU.

Explanation: In light of the newly enacted Code of Conduct for Social Workers and upcoming registration requirements, it is important that Social Workers have someone working for IASW to take on responsibility for actively pursuing information from and communication with CORU

1. To ensure IASW has sufficient time to become adequately familiar with progress and developments related to the registration process and
2. To ensure the implications of these are known in a timely manner and are adequately responded to.

- in favour
1 abstention
4 against
Motion was carried

Motion 4

Proposed by: David Williamson

Seconded by: Saragh McGarrigle

On behalf of Social Workers in Probation

Probation Officers are required to exercise the skills of Professional Social Workers and the working protocols of the Probation Service are founded on and incorporate social work skills and practices. Therefore, the Probation Special Interest Group requests that the IASW calls on the Department of Justice to recognise the NQSW/CQSW/Social Work Registration as the basic entry requirement into the service for the Probation Officer grade.

Explanation: While recognising that those currently working in probation who have alternate qualifications to the NQSW have made a valuable contribution to the service, it would be important, given the current times and with registration of social workers, that going forward there is a basic minimum entry requirement of the social work qualification in order to continue safe-guarding the professionalism of the Probation Service. The probation service has committed considerable resources over a four-year period to up-skill 40 probation officers to the NQSW. Given this considerable resource commitment, it would make sense going forward to have NQSW as the minimum standard in order to free up such resources for development in other much need areas in the service.

Once the 40 Probation Officers have completed their NQSW course, the vast majority of Probation Officers will be Professionally Qualified Social Workers.

This motion is intended to further promote the development and professionalisation of social work in Ireland. The more we understand about the complexities of offending behaviours, the more apparent it becomes that the competencies and skills of professional social work are essential in dealing with these realities.

- in favour
1 abstention
1 against
Motion was carried

Motion 1

Proposed by: Sarah Houston

Seconded by: Mary McNamara

On behalf of Social Workers in Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMHS)

We call on the Mental Health Commission that all newly established "Approved Centres" for the in-patient treatment of Children and Adolescents with mental health difficulties, whether public or private, have full multidisciplinary teams including social workers, as per the regulations of the Mental Health Act 2001 and the recommendations of 'A Vision for Change'.

Motion was carried unanimously

Motion 2

Proposed by: Mary McNamara

Seconded by: Sarah Houston

On behalf of Social Workers in Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMHS)

We call on the Health Service Executive, in their capacity as service providers & service funders, that all community based Child and Adolescent mental Health Service (CAMHS) teams, including in-patient teams, have their full complement of multidisciplinary team members, including social workers as per the Mental Health Act 2001 and the recommendations of 'A Vision for Change'.

Motion was carried unanimously

Motion 3

Proposed by: Frank Browne

Seconded by: Donal O'Malley

On behalf of Social Workers in Adult Mental Health (SWAMH)

The IASW calls upon the HSE to ensure that all social workers working for the HSE or for agencies funded by the HSE have access to supervision from a professionally qualified social work line manager.

- in favour

- abstention

3 against

Motion was carried

Motion 4

Proposed by: Patricia Daly

Seconded by: Anne O'Loughlin

On behalf of Social Workers in Ageing (SIGA)

Advocacy for older people is complex and the IASW endorse this document as a discussion document and pursue the issues raised in it surrounding the new HSE NAPA volunteer scheme for older people in residential care scheme have raised including:

- Complexity of cases dealt with by volunteers.
- Risk management.
- The boundaries of the volunteer's role.
- Issues of confidentiality.
- The interplay and overlap of the volunteer's advocacy role and the professional social work advocacy role, especially the social worker's knowledge of the client history.
- The conflict in the concept of the volunteer advocate role being solely directed by the client and independent whereas the social worker is taking an overview, systemic, ecological and holistic view in the best interest of the client, frequently a client with cognitive and capacity issues.

- in favour

3 abstentions

1 against

Motion was carried

Motion 5

Proposed by: Frida Lowry

Seconded by: Anne O'Loughlin

On behalf of Social Workers in Disability (SWID)

The SWID National Committee proposes that IASW draft a policy document regarding good practice for social workers in the recording /collection and protection of confidential client information in the multi-disciplinary team setting.

- in favour

2 abstentions

- against

Motion was carried

Motion 6

Proposed by: Paul McCarthy

Seconded by: Kirsten Byrne

On behalf of Social Workers working with Children & Families (C&F)

That the Children and Families SIG calls on the IASW to oppose the proposed implementation, by the HSE, of the National Child Care Information System (NCCIS), in particular the Standardised Business Process.

Motion was carried unanimously

Motion7

Proposed by: Paul McCarthy

Seconded by: Kirsten Byrne

On behalf of Social Workers working with Children & Families (C&F)

That the Children and Families SIG calls on the IASW to draw attention to the inequity in the care and aftercare provision for separated young people (unaccompanied minors) in Ireland.

Motion was carried unanimously

Motion 8

Proposed by: Paul McCarthy

Seconded by: Kirsten Byrne

On behalf of Social Workers working with Children & Families (C&F)

That the Children and Families SIG calls on the IASW to contact the Assistant National Director of Children and Families to request that the IASW be represented on any future taskforce, committee or otherwise involved in any initiatives to do with children and family services, including the reconfiguration of children and family services.

Motion was carried unanimously

AGM MOTIONS 2009

Motion 1

Proposed by: Aoife McGrath

Seconded by: Steve Peet

On behalf of Social Workers in the Southern Region

The Southern Branch calls on the IASW to express concerns with HSE management with regard to the current system of recruitment for basic grade Social Work, which involves national generic recruitment panels. The expression of such concern needs to be explored by the IASW in terms of professional policy recommendations for recruitment and should address the issue of the short form interview which does not take into account specialist knowledge and professional social work experience.

Amendment: The Southern Branch calls on the IASW to express concerns with HSE management with regard to the current system of recruitment for Social Workers which involved national generic recruitment panels. The expression of such concerns needs to be explored by the IASW in terms of professional policy recommendations for recruitment.

- in favour
1 abstention
3 against

Amended Motion was carried

Motion 2

Proposed by: Kirsten Byrne

Seconded by: Gavin Mulhall

On behalf of Social Workers working with Children & Families (C&F)

This SIG calls on the IASW to monitor the progress of the Children's Rights Bill and in case of further delay write to the Minister for Justice to express our concern.

Motion was carried unanimously

Motion 3

Proposed by: Declan Coogan

Seconded by: Sheila McKenna

On behalf of Social Workers in Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMHS)

We call on the IASW to call on the Minister for Health to extend the remit of the Mental Health Commission to include the review of the involuntary detention at inpatient services of children and young people under the age of 18.

- in favour
5 abstentions

AGM MOTIONS 2007 - 2020

- against
Motion was carried

Motion 4

Proposed by: Declan Coogan

Seconded by: Sheila McKenna

On behalf of Social Workers in Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMHS)

We call on the HSE to provide clear guidelines regarding the involuntary detention of children under the Mental Health Act 2001.

- in favour
4 abstentions
- against
Motion was carried

Motion 5

Proposed by: Aoife Mc Grath

Seconded by: Declan Coogan

On behalf of Social Workers in Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMHS)

We call on the IASW to support social workers in CAMHS in developing a policy on best practice in relation to caseload management for social workers on CAMHS teams.

Amendment: We call on the IASW to support social workers in Special Interest Groups in developing a policy on best practice in relation to caseload management for social workers.

Amended Motion was carried unanimously

Motion 6

Proposed by: Sheila McKenna

Seconded by: Declan Coogan

On behalf of Social Workers in Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMHS)

We call on the HSE to ensure that newly established in-patient mental health units for children and adolescents include social workers on their teams.

Motion was carried unanimously

Motion 7

Proposed by: Declan Coogan

Seconded by: Ineke Durville

On behalf of the IASW Executive

The Irish Association of Social Workers recognises that there is no empirical evidence supporting the use of reparative therapy, though there is evidence of mental health risks associated with reparative therapy interventions used with lesbian, gay or bisexual people. Therefore, the IASW discourages social workers from providing interventions designed to change sexual orientation and from referring to practitioners or programmes that claim to do so.

Amendment: The Irish Association of Social Workers recognises that there is no empirical evidence supporting the use of reparative therapy, though there is evidence of mental health risks associated with reparative therapy interventions used with lesbian, gay or bisexual people. The IASW is strongly opposed to use of reparative therapy and discourages social workers from providing interventions designed to change sexual orientation and from referring to practitioners or programmes that claim to do so.

- in favour
1 abstention
- against

Amended Motion was carried

Motion 8

Proposed by: Frank Browne

Seconded by: Donal O'Malley

Amendment:

Proposed by: Billie Anne Johnston

On behalf of Social Workers in Adult Mental Health (SWAMH)

HSE Patient Charges, IASW calls upon 1)The Minister for Health and Children to review the unjustified 28% increase in patient charges for all those living in HSE provided or funded accommodation and 2) The HSE to ensure the fair and consistent implementation of the financial assessment process with regard to patient charges.

Amendment: HSE Patient Charges, IASW calls upon 1)The Minister for Health and Children to review the 28% increase in patient charges for all those living in HSE provided or funded accommodation and 2) The HSE to

ensure the fair and consistent implementation of the financial assessment process with regard to patient charges.

20 in favour
11 abstentions
13 against
Amended Motion was carried

Motion 9
Proposed by: Frida Lowry
Seconded by: Coleman Parker
On behalf of Social Workers in Disability (SWID)

SWID propose that IASW, given the requirements of the Assessment of Need process (Disability Act 2005) adopt the recommended standard of good practice developed by SWID (Social Workers in Disability) for Social Workers undertaking assessments.

This comprises the following documents:

- The Social Work Role (March '07).
- The Framework Documents (May'07).
- The Guidance Sheet (March '09).

- in favour
7 abstentions
3 against
Motion was carried

AGM MOTIONS 2008

Motion 1
Proposed by: David Hughes
On behalf of Social Workers in Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMHS)

We call on the DOH&C and HSE to fully resource community mental health teams in line with the recommendations of 'Vision for Change' to ensure equality of access for children to multidisciplinary assessment and services across the country.

Motion was carried unanimously

Motion 2

Proposed by: David Hughes

On behalf of Social Workers in Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMHS)

We call on the DOH&C and HSE to open, as a matter of urgency, inpatient services throughout the country for children and adolescents experiencing mental health crises in line with 'Vision for Change'.

Motion was carried unanimously

Motion 3

Proposed by: Declan Coogan

On behalf of Social Workers in Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMHS)

We call on the DOH&C and HSE to provide funding and study leave for the Continuing Professional Development of social workers as in line with best international practice.

**** Withdrawn ****

Amendment: We call on the DOH&C and HSE to provide equity of access to funding and study leave for the Continuing Professional Development of social workers as in line with best international practice. Declan asked for figures to back up this – in some areas more support than others - when writing to Dept.

Amended Motion was carried unanimously

Motion 4

Proposed by: Declan Coogan

On behalf of Social Workers in Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMHS)

We fully support the Government's commitment to recognising in legislation gay and lesbian relationships. We call on the Government to introduce legislation without delay, granting full equality to gay and lesbian relationships.

Motion NOT carried

Amendment: We fully support the Government's commitment to recognising in legislation gay and lesbian relationships. We call on the Government to introduce legislation without delay that provides for full equality for gay and lesbian relationships.

Amended Motion was carried unanimously

Motion 5

Proposed by: Margaret Groarke

On behalf of Social Workers in Adult Mental Health (SWAMH)

That the HSE take immediate steps to ensure that there is a Principal Social Worker in Adult Mental Health, in post, in every Catchment Area in order to act with due diligence regarding the provision of a safe service in line with policy and procedure for effective service development and management and the supervision of front line staff.

Motion was carried unanimously

Motion 6

Proposed by: Margaret Groarke

On behalf of Social Workers in Adult Mental Health (SWAMH)

That the HSE make arrangements to ensure that every Mental Health Social Worker is provided with professional clinical supervision by a qualified Social Worker

Motion was carried unanimously

Motion 7

Proposed by: Frank Browne

On behalf of Social Workers in Adult Mental Health (SWAMH)

That the HSE fund at least one social work post per consultant led Adult Mental Health Multidisciplinary Team and the practice of one social worker covering several teams is ended.

Motion was carried unanimously

Motion 8

Proposed by: Aoife McGrath

On behalf of Social Workers in the Southern Region

The Cork Branch calls for all Special Interest Groups of IASW to establish a policy document on case-load recommendations for Social Work in different areas of specialist practice.

Motion was carried unanimously

Motion 9

Proposed by: Aoife McGrath

On behalf of Social Workers in the Southern Region

The Cork Branch calls on IASW to write to the DOH&C requesting an urgent review of the assessment officer post, and the operation of this post, under the Disability Act. A number of issues discussed. It was decided to write to Dept. presenting motion and listing issues.

- in favour
2 abstentions
- against
Motion was carried

Motion 10

Proposed by: Aoife McGrath

On behalf of Social Workers in the Southern Region

The Cork Branch calls on IASW to adopt a policy on social work supervision.

Motion was carried unanimously

Motion 11

Proposed by: Aoife McGrath

On behalf of Social Workers in the Southern Region

The Cork Branch calls on the IASW to recommend to the DOH&C and State Services that they would consider appropriate training for translators.

**** Withdrawn ****

Motion 12

Proposed by: G. Mulhall

On behalf of Social Workers working with Children & Families (C&F)

Children & Families SIG calls on IASW to write to the Minister for Health and Children and the Minister for Health outlining social work concerns on the impact of cutbacks and on-going employment controls on the delivery of services to Children and Families.

Motion was carried unanimously

Motion 13

On behalf of the IASW Executive

The Executive seeks a mandate to spend capital to address the administrative crises within the office.

Motion was carried unanimously

Emergency Motion 1

Proposed by: Bernadette Casey

On behalf of Dublin/Mid-Leinster Elder Abuse Social Workers

IASW urges that in the future all vacant social work posts for Elder Abuse (known currently as Senior Caseworker for Elder Abuse) should be open to professionally qualified Social Workers with three year's post qualification experience of working with any care group, and that the HSE amend the eligibility criteria accordingly.

- in favour

2 abstentions

3 against

Motion was carried

Emergency Motion 2

Proposed by: Bernadette Casey

On behalf of Dublin/Mid-Leinster Elder Abuse Social Workers

That the post of Senior Case Worker for Elder Abuse has the title changed to Senior Social Worker for the Protection of Older Persons to reflect the job description, the eligibility criteria, the qualification and the profession of the holders of the posts.

- in favour
- abstentions
1 against
Motion was carried

Emergency Motion 3
Proposed by: John Brennan
Social Workers in Ageing (SIGA)

This AGM calls on the Government and Health Service Executive to stop the severe cutbacks and reinstate community, respite, and residential care services because of the detrimental effect on vulnerable older persons and their careers.

Motion was carried unanimously

AGM MOTIONS 2007

Motion 1
Proposed by: Marie Therese Mulholland
Seconded by: Miriam Mooney
On behalf of the IASW Council/Executive

The IASW Executive/ Council proposes the following changes to the Constitution and General Rules:
A- We propose that article 2.5.2: "The Honorary Treasurer shall furnish the Annual General Meeting with an audited statement of the accounts of the Association" be amended to read "The Honorary Treasurer shall furnish the Annual General Meeting with a statement of the accounts of the Association prepared by a firm of accountants"

B- The IASW Executive/ Council proposes that anyone whose subscription is 2 months or more in arrears shall be served with a notice to this effect in writing to the last address registered with the Association.

Motion was carried unanimously

Motion 2
Proposed by: Marie Therese Mulholland

AGM MOTIONS 2007 - 2020

Seconded by: Miriam Mooney
On behalf of the IASW Council/Executive

The IASW Executive proposes that Gabriel Kiely and Monica Egan be made honorary members of the IASW.

Motion was carried unanimously

Motion 3

Proposed by: Jean Lyons

Seconded by: Lizzie White

On behalf of Social Workers in Foster Care (SWIFC)

That the SWIFC Group explore the extent to which the necessary dedicated team structures have been put in place for the delivery of foster care services across the country in line with the government's Working Group Report on Foster Care and request IASW to make representation to the Department of Health and Children highlighting the discrepancies nationwide.

Explanation: There are no fostering team structures in place despite the Working Group Report from the Department of Health and Children stating that there should be)

- in favour

2 abstentions

- against

Motion was carried

Motion 4

Proposed by: Frank Browne

Seconded by: Len Amory

Amendment:

Proposed by: Frank Browne

Seconded by: Len Amory

On behalf of Social Workers in Adult Mental Health (SWAMH)

We call upon social work training colleges to be more pro-active and flexible in attracting males on to the relevant courses.

Explanation: According to NSWQB" Social Work Posts in Ireland" (2005): in 2001 the percentage of male students enrolling to professional social training courses was 16%; in 2004 this had reduced to 13%.

The arguments for a balanced gender mix are numerous, both in individual therapeutic work and in teamwork. Both genders bring a range of qualities, experiences, and perspectives. The absence of males on social work training courses and in the workplace is arguably going to impact on the ability of future social workers to engage with male service users in particular. Most post-graduate social work training courses in the Republic require a social science degree. Males are under-represented on these courses and hence males are then not accessing social work training. The option of diploma courses without the requirement of a social science degree as in other jurisdictions might be one way of addressing the gender imbalance.

10 in favour
No abstentions
18 against
Motion NOT carried

Amendment: Mary Allen agreed in principal but requested clarification on what was meant by being 'pro-active and flexible in attracting males'. Other concerns over 'dumbing-down' were voiced and it was also argued that colleges and universities did plenty to attract people of both sexes. Marie Therese Mulholland (President Elect) suggested amendment be made and that the word 'flexible' be scored out.

15 in favour
No abstentions
17 against
Amended Motion NOT carried

Motion 5

Proposed by: Terry Bradshaw

Seconded by: Aoife McGrath

On behalf of Social Workers in the Southern Region

We would like to call on the IASW to seek clarification on the employment embargo issue with the Department of Health and Children. We would like to have the above concerns addressed in relation to why this embargo continues to be in place, when there is a significant need to increase staff in all areas. Should the Department of Health need further evidence of staffing issues, we call on the HSE to investigate service delivery to be carried out. We call on the IASW to demand that this embargo be lifted.

Explanation: There have been recent aspirational moves forward in terms of legislative practice (i.e. the revision of Children First, Child Protection legislation in respect of grooming, & the Children's Constitution), yet there continues to be significant resource/staffing difficulties on the ground. This is the result of the HSE employment embargo on increasing staff in Social Work. This is of concern as it will impinge on the effective implementation on such Acts and also on the standard of Social Work Practice. This is evident in the Southern region by the number of unemployed Social Work graduates (while college places were doubled, there has been no increasing work placements to meet the demand). The consequence of ignoring staffing issues is

that social workers in practice, in the Southern Region, are carrying unmanageable caseloads which result in unsafe crisis response from Social Work teams. Social Work in the Southern Region is experiencing excessive wait listing in all Social Work specialist areas- (i.e. Child Protection, Medical, Fostering, CAMH). This not only impacts on the mental health of social workers in the field, but also on service provision for families who are most in need.)

Motion was carried unanimously

Motion 6

Proposed by: Declan Coogan

On behalf of Social Workers in Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMHS)

The IASW calls on the HSE, voluntary agencies, the Mental Health Commission, and IMPACT to meet with the IASW to both discuss the implementation of the Mental Health Act 2001 and to resolve the lack of clarity about the roles of social workers working in mental health and learning disability in the HSE and voluntary services in the new regulations.

**** Withdrawn ****

Motion 7

Proposed by: Declan Coogan

On behalf of Social Workers in Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMHS)

The IASW calls on the HSE to provide an Out-of-Hours Child Protection Service on a national basis to meet the needs of children and young people living in crisis situations outside of regular office hours and to support the role of social workers in mental health and learning disability under the new regulations under the Mental Health Act 2001.

Amendment: Out-of-Hours community care teams.

22 in favour

- abstentions

3 against

Amended Motion was carried

Motion 8

Proposed by: Declan Coogan

On behalf of Social Workers in Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMHS)

The IASW calls on the HSE to urgently address the issue of the unacceptably long waiting lists for the assessment and treatment of children and young people throughout the country referred to social workers working in mental health and learning disability with concerns about mental health, emotional and behavioural difficulties, ADHD and autistic spectrum disorders.

25 in favour
4 abstentions
- against
Motion was carried

Motion 9

Proposed by: Declan Coogan

On behalf of Social Workers in Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMHS)

The IASW calls on the HSE to establish multi-disciplinary therapeutic residential placements to which social work teams in mental health and learning disability can refer children and young people with complex emotional, behavioural and mental health difficulties. CAMHS call on the IASW in partnership with unions to promote the recognition and remuneration of additional training.

Motion was carried unanimously

Motion 10

Proposed by: Declan Coogan

On behalf of Social Workers in Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMHS)

The IASW calls for the full resourcing of NEPS (the National Educational Psychological Service) to facilitate effective inter-agency work involving NEPS and SWA, improved educational and mental health services to children and young people and appropriate referrals to the two distinct services.

9 in favour
13 abstentions
6 against
Motion NOT carried

Motion 11

Proposed by: Declan Coogan

Seconded by: Billie Anne Johnston

On behalf of Social Workers in Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMHS)

The IASW calls on the HSE to immediately lift the embargo on the recruitment of new staff to Learning Disability, Mental Health and Community Care teams.

4 in favour

11 abstentions 9 against

Motion NOT carried

Motion 12

Proposed by: Declan Coogan

On behalf of Social Workers in Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMHS)

The IASW calls on the HSE and employing agencies to recognise the additional training undertaken by many social workers in different psychotherapies and other work-related fields and to take account of these in determining pay levels for staff, in line with recognition given to other grades of health service staff.

**** Withdrawn ****

Motion 13

Proposed by: Anna Carroll

Seconded by: Theresa McDonagh

On behalf of Social Workers in Disability (SWID)

Social Workers in Learning Disability call on IASW to continue to promote the importance of the social worker working in learning disability in early intervention teams.

- in favour

1 abstention

- against

Motion was carried

Motion 14

AGM MOTIONS 2007 - 2020

Proposed by: Ineke Durville

Seconded by: Pat Waldron

On behalf of Social Workers working with Children & Families (C&F)

The Special Interest Group for children and families call on the IASW to write to the Department of Health and Children to increase the funding for the HSE in order to provide additional social workers and resources to enable the social work staff to carry out their statutory functions including prevention.

Motion was carried unanimously

