



Welcome to the **IASW Newsletter** where we give an overview of activities and keep you up to date with the work of the Board, the Council and the staff.

As the winter draws in, we see some changes in the office which I think allows us to do more work and make greater strides towards our strategic objectives. The addition of a third person brings new ideas to the team and greater assistance for the Board and Council. One of our primary objectives is to increase membership whereby we can spread the benefits of membership across a greater number of social workers and better represent the profession across all sectors. Increased membership allows us to do more work, be more representative of our profession and have greater influence nationally. Indeed, it is to the credit of the Board, the Council and the Office that we achieve as much as we do with a largely voluntary input. We are a leader in the provision of CPD for social workers. We turn down invitations every week to attend meetings and events due to a lack of time and personnel, and we are limited at times in responding to issues of national importance and social justice. Social work is no longer a new profession. We celebrate 100 Years of medical social work this month, and the IASW itself is already 48 years old. The IASW cannot survive without the members.

**Thank you for your continuing support. Please spread the good news that IASW is growing and seeking to grow further!**

Aine McGuirk, Chair, SW004099

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From Nov 2018 to Nov 2019, the IASW will have organised 40 events for Social Workers within the CPD Calendar, advertising and offering over 2000 training days nationwide (the amount of participant spaces). This means registered Social Workers have had the opportunity to access over 12,000 hours of CPD Credit, 40 CPD Certificates, access to PowerPoint slides, newly released research and academic books, as well as 40 opportunities to have your say in our evaluation forms and volunteer to work with the organisation. In addition to the IASW events, we have advertised and promoted additional events from other organisations and trainers.



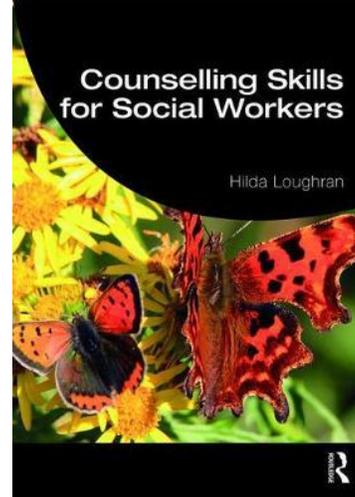
On Monday 30<sup>th</sup> of September, the IASW had a wonderful event attended by 40 participants in St. Andrews Resource Center. In a time of increasing challenges for social work, the Irish Association of Social Workers International Committee was proud to host a unique and innovative conference bringing together radical and relationship based social work practice. The **"Advocates and Allies"** conference explored how social workers in front line practice can practically connect more radical or 'collective' approaches to everyday micro or 'individual' approaches. Key to this was exploring how social workers can build alliances with service users by drawing on our core skills and knowledge base of advocacy, human rights and social justice work. One participant stated: *"I think overall having a historical perspective is essential to understanding what is happening in social work now. Retaining "HOPE" and holding that space for service users is also essential and is a bridge to future change"*. The IASW would like to thank the members of the International Committee for putting this wonderful day together and thanks to Michael, a service user, that explained his positive experience of working with a Social Worker.

Written by: Sylvia Ryan (IASW CPD Officer)

Picture: International Committee and Guest Speakers



On Monday 7<sup>th</sup> of October, the IASW was delighted to host with Dr. Una Mc Cluskey **"The Challenge of the Dynamics of**



On Friday 4<sup>th</sup> of October, the IASW held **"Counselling Skills"** with Hilda Loughran who is a social work academic in the School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice at UCD and currently a board member of IASW. There were 18 participants who attended this full day session and really enjoyed the day. Hilda has been involved in social work education for many years. Her areas of practice, education and research interest include counselling skills: motivational interviewing, solution focused work and group work. She is also involved in teaching addiction, theories and methods and research. She has been actively involved in engaging service users in social work education and research. Her most recent publication is "Counselling skills for social work". At the IASW Annual Conference in May 2019 Hilda presented a paper on this topic addressing the roots of social work in building relationships, also looking at some of the concerns and challenges that face social work in the current climate. We look forward to more events delivered by Hilda.

Written by: Sylvia Ryan (IASW CPD Officer)



On Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> of October, the new Associate Group, "Adverse Childhood Experiences", hosted their first event. **"Understanding ACEs from a Social Work Perspective"** was carried out in the Hall of

**Attachment for Professional Care Givers and the Impact on their own Health and Well-Being.”** It was attended by 30 Participants and funded by the HSCP Office. After many years of research Dr. Una Mc Cluskey identified five typical care-seeking patterns of behavior and five typical care-giving responses which give rise to nine different patterns of interaction between professional caregiver and care seeker, each presenting distinctive vitality affects. When participants were asked “What skills/knowledge will you introduce to your workplace as a result of attending this workshop”?...One participant answered....*“I now have an understanding of care seeking pattern and how it influences care giving pattern. This will assist me to support adults with complex health issues who are experiencing distress”.*

Written by: Sylvia Ryan (IASW CPD Officer)  
Picture: Dr. Una Mc Cluskey



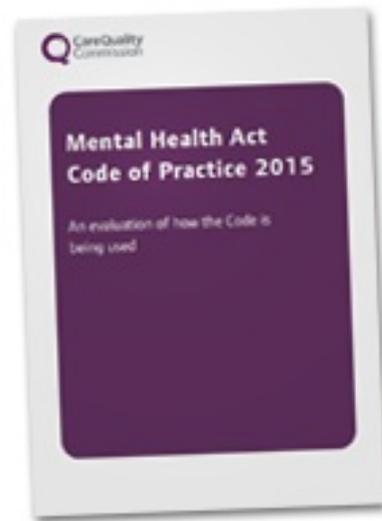
On Wednesday 30th of October, Aoife Bairéad gave a workshop on **"Using an Attachment and Trauma Informed Perspective in Social Work with Children"** for a group of 22 Social Workers. Aoife Bairéad is a social worker specialising in trauma and attachment. Her interest in working with children with attachment issues, developmental trauma and emotional dis-regulation has brought her to work in a variety of different settings. Aoife has additional qualifications and training in attachment assessments (AAI, Care Index, Narrative Story Stems), as well as interventions for children and adults with trauma histories and attachment issues. Some of the Learning goals of the workshop were:

- Develop a basic understanding of how trauma impacts children's development.
- To recognise and respond to behaviours relating to developmental trauma in children.
- To utilise a range of therapeutic tools for

the St. Andrews Resource Centre. It was attended by 60 Social Workers and it included presentations by Professor Trevor Spratt from Trinity College Dublin and ACEs associate group members: Mary Kennedy from Tusla Out of Hours Service who is doing a PhD at TCD on "Using the Adverse Childhood Experience Survey to inform Service Development in a Social Care Organisation", Katie Murphy from Enable Ireland and Angela Moore from St Patrick's Mental Health Services. Dr. Colletta Dalikeni, Board Member of the IASW also participated with a membership speech. We congratulate the ACEs Group for their success on hosting their first event and we wish them best of luck in future activities and projects.

Written by: Marina Tiribelli (IASW Administrator)

Picture: Mary Kennedy and attendees



The **"Assisted Decision Making (Capacity) Act"** was signed into law on the Friday 30<sup>th</sup> of December 2015. This Act applies to everyone and is relevant to all health and social care services. The Act is about supporting decision making and maximising a person's capacity to make decisions. The Act will have significant implications for health and social care providers in the provision of safe person-centred care, based on respecting the individual rights of each person. Previous participants at the course have said they learned and said the following: *"The idea that everyone has capacity and building capacity."* *"The role of Social Work in assisted decision making and capacity. I feel more informed that I can now share the information with my colleagues."* *"This training was an eye opener to many issues,*

working with children with trauma histories.  
-To explore how to incorporate trauma focused work into work with children.

Written by: Marina Tiribelli (IASW Administrator)

Picture: Aoife Bairéad and attendees

*especially useful to understand key concepts & principles of decision making.”* The IASW has offered this training in Dublin, Kildare and Cork with Josephine Mc Loughlin over the last year and the 4th course will be in the Clayton Hotel Sligo on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of November.

Written by: Sylvia Ryan (IASW CPD Officer)



### **International Federation of Social Workers**

As IFSW Vice-President I participated in several events in Europe these past weeks. In September I attended the IFSW Europe Delegates' meeting in Vienna and followed this by attending the IFSW Europe Regional Conference also in Vienna and giving a workshop on the European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR) – exploring the voice of social work in implementing the Pillar.

The Delegates' meeting supported a joint IASW, BASW NI and BASW UK resolution, proposed by IASW Chair, Áine McGuirk and the BASW UK Chair, Gerry Nosowska on the potential negative of Brexit for social work and the users of social work services on the islands of Ireland and the UK (see the IASW website for details).

This implementation is the focus of a working group of IFSW member organisations, including IASW. The work of this group will be distributed to all IFSW Europe member organisations shortly. Getting MEPs to support our efforts is a key strategy for IFSW Europe.

Later in September, I travelled to Helsinki on behalf of IFSW Europe to attend the European Social Platform (umbrella organisation for European NGOs) annual Flagship conference – Finland holds the EU Presidency until December, hence the venue. The implementation of the EPSR is a key element of the work of the Platform and its member organisations. As part of this conference I attended a one-day long workshop on health inequity and social justice.

From October 14-16<sup>th</sup> I attended the Social Platform's Steering Committee meeting in Brussels and followed this on the 16<sup>th</sup> with a presentation at a joint IFSW, EAPN, ATD Fourth World and Emmaus event with MEPs in the EU Parliament. This event aimed to elicit support from MEPs in the drive against poverty in Europe. My presentation was on the IFSW's perspective on tackling poverty in Europe. We also heard from four people from

We are delighted to announce that membership fees for 2020 will not increase as we have been successful in negotiating a retention of our current Fitness to Practice Legal Protection insurance coverage premium 😊



Information on your **2020 Membership Renewal** can be found here: <https://iasw.ie/page/283>. As per our T&C's **membership automatically rolls over** each year. Before we deduct your 2020 fee, can you please consider the following:

- 1) Has there been a change to your circumstances i.e. retiring, unemployed, reduced working hours?
- 2) Has there been a change to your card details i.e. new credit/debit card, lost/stolen card replaced?
- 3) If you are newly qualified but haven't found employment?

**If any of these are applicable to you, can you please contact us on/before December 20<sup>th</sup> to discuss your membership category options, update card details, etc.**



**We need YOUR help!!!**

The IASW is run by members for members. If we ask that **each member recruits one new member**, and everyone does this, we would succeed in reaching our goal of **2000 members by December 2020**



On Tuesday 17th of September, the Irish Foster Care Association (IFCA) hosted the event **"Staying Connected"** in the Department of Children and Youth Affairs with the aim of bringing together all those involved in the fostering community. It showcased a wide range of resources and support for foster careers, young people, social workers and the wider community. The IASW participated having a stand and sharing information with social workers and attendees in general. We thank IFCA for the invitation and we look forward to the next collaboration.

Written by: Marina Tiribelli (IASW Administrator)

Picture: IASW Stand



On Thursday 24th of October, Professor Thomas Skovholt, from the United States, held the **"The Resilient Practitioner: Self-Care, Burnout and Resilience for**



**7th National Child Protection and Welfare Social Work Conference"** was carried out at UCC in Cork.

**Professionals"** masterclass fro 50 Social Workers in Cork. Dr. Hilda Loughran, board member of the IASW, was present at the event and give an introduction speech about membership and the importance and relevance of the topics that will be presented by Professor Thomas Skovholt. The IASW has a stand and exchanged information with members as well as informing non-members about the benefits of joining the Association.

Written by: Marina Tiribelli (IASW Administrator)

Picture: IASW Stand



Picture: Main stage of "The 7th National Child Protection and Welfare Social Work Conference"

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### **Welcome to Marina Tiribelli**

Marina commenced as Office Administrator on the 15<sup>th</sup> of July 2019. Hailing from South America, Marina has travelled extensively on her way to Dublin. Her work and studies have taken her from her home in Buenos Aires, Argentina, to Washington, Paris, Amsterdam and Glasgow, visiting many other places along the way. Marina has studied Law and International Relations and is proficient in three languages. Marina has a broad range of work experience in the office environment and is a proven self-motivator as well as a team player. Under Danielle's guidance she is managing the office in St Andrews on a daily basis supporting all IASW activities and concerns. Marina looks forward to getting to know members across the organisation.

Written by: Aine McGuirk (IASW Chair)

Photo: Marina Tiribelli

### **Farewell to Sylvia Ryan**

On behalf of the members, the Board and the Council, I would like to thank Sylvia for the CPD programme she delivered over the past year during Cliona's absence. We had a most successful year with 40 events delivered, and excellent feedback. Sylvia brought different thinking from her previous work experience in delivering training programmes in other not for profit sectors. She also contributed to promoting the IASW on social media, at CPD venues when possible, and with the Health and Social Care Professionals Office who fund the post. We wish her well in her next employment where she is taking up another post in a training environment.

Written by: Aine McGuirk (IASW Chair)

Photo: Sylvia Ryan



### **Welcome Back Cliona Murphy**

Cliona returns to her position as CPD Officer with IASW on the 4<sup>th</sup> of November. Cliona has spent the past year travelling far and wide, exploring and relaxing away from the constraints of Dublin city life. She is ready to tackle again the ever-challenging issues affecting Social Work, the IASW and Social Worker CPD. She looks forward to working again with the office, the members, the Board and Council in delivering the CPD programme into the future.

Written by: Aine McGuirk (IASW Chair)

Photo: Cliona Murphy



### **Danielle McGoldrick changes her hours**

Danielle commenced working remotely from home at the end of August 2019. She now works on a part time basis and manages all activities with her usual expertise from there. This change has been seamless and she is ably supported by Marina. This allows Danielle concentrate on specific activities including finance, membership, strategic planning and support to the Board and Council.

Written by: Aine McGuirk (IASW Chair)

Photo: Danielle McGoldrick

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To download all submissions please visit the IASW website:

<https://www.iasw.ie/Submissions-and-Representations>

List of all submissions since July 2019:

- **IASW Submission on HIQA Draft Guidance on a Human Rights-Based Approach to Care and Support in Health and Social Care Settings July 2019.**
- **SWAMH - Draft Guidance on a Human Rights-Based Approach to Care and Support in Health and Social Care Settings July 2019.**
- **SWID - Draft Standards for Inpatient Specialist Rehabilitation July 2019.**
- **SWID - Draft Standards for Community Specialist Rehabilitation July 2019.**
- **Primary Care SIG Feedback to FORSA on the 2019 Final Draft of the National Safeguarding Policy July 2019.**
- **Social Workers & Migration - Submission to the Oireachtas Committee on Justice and Equality July 2019.**
- **SIGA - Deprivation of Liberty: Safeguard Proposals Consultation Paper Feedback July 2019.**
- **Home Care Coalition - Experiences of Homecare.**
- **Home Care - Draft Release.**

The IASW is invited to participate in many advisory, expert review and focus groups. We also receive invitations to a wide variety of events. In addition, we also meet with CORU, Tusla, Ministers, Government Departments and the media.

List of all representations since May 2019:

- **Social Work Education Group and Social Work Education Subgroup Student Placements** - 20<sup>th</sup> of June
- **NSC/Safeguarding Ireland Documentation** - 26<sup>th</sup> of June, 25<sup>th</sup> of September and 11<sup>th</sup> of December
- **Conversation about the design and planning of a National HSCP Strategy** - 2<sup>nd</sup> of July
- **Discuss Social Workers in Mental Health having Social Work involvement the National Clinical Programme for the Assessment and Management of Self-Harm** - 24<sup>th</sup> July
- **National Consent Policy - Focused Consultation with HSCP** - Contribution by 14<sup>th</sup> August
- **Age Action AGM** – 10<sup>th</sup> September
- **Development of a HSCP Strategic Framework** - 17<sup>th</sup> of September
- **HSCPA Meeting** - 23<sup>rd</sup> September
- **National HSCP Conference** - 1st October
- **Invitation from DCYA** - 16<sup>th</sup> October
- **Adult Safeguarding Stakeholder Workshop** - 23<sup>rd</sup> October
- **Cork Masterclass Conference** - 24<sup>th</sup> October
- **A Centenary of Medical Social Work** - 24<sup>th</sup> October
- **EMBRACE EQUALITY conference** - 24<sup>th</sup> October

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