



## A Note from our Chair, Vivian Geiran

As we reach the half-way point in the current year, I am conscious of so much IASW-related activity over the course of the year so far, as well as the level of general busyness that so many social workers are managing in their lives on an ongoing basis. I hope that all of you will have an opportunity for some 'down-time' and to 'recharge' over the summer months. In the meantime, the work of IASW continues, including longstanding matters and new developments alike, all of which continue to present.



We recently held our AGM and once again, that meeting highlighted the ongoing range of issues that IASW is dealing with and that we need to focus on for the year ahead. These include, on the one hand, negative issues such as the ongoing 'embargo' on recruitment in the HSE. On the other hand, exciting and positive developments include the new pathways being developed into social work (see below) and the moves to develop our collective professional thinking and position on Advanced Practice in Social Work, among others. As I highlighted at the recent AGM, the timeline of our current (2022-2024) Strategic Plan takes us up to the end of 2024. As this year draws towards a close therefore, it will be necessary to begin the process of planning for our next strategic planning and delivery phase, from 2025 onwards. We aim to be embarking on that process with a new Chief Operations Officer (COO) in post. The recruitment process for that COO position is well advanced and I look forward to an appointee taking up that position in the coming weeks.

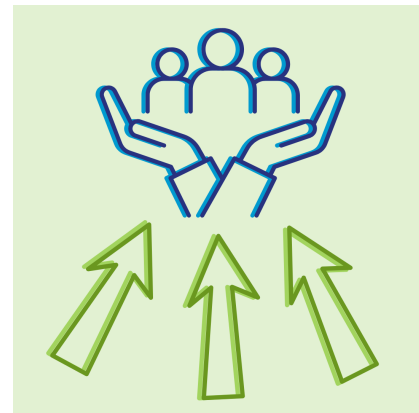
At the AGM, four Board members – Dr. Colletta Dalikeni, Majella Hickey, Gary Gartland and Bridín Murphy – stepped down as Directors, having completed such valuable and productive terms on the Board. As well as thanking them, I also want to extend a warm welcome to incoming Directors: Oby Enekwechi-Ibeguwu, Siobhán Nunn and Monica

Hynds O'Flanagan, who were elected to the Board at the recent AGM; and to Denise Kirwan and Una Burgess who have been nominated to be appointed as Independent Directors by the IASW Board. As always, so much of what we do and achieve as an Association depends on the invaluable input of dedicated volunteers, at every level and in every area of the IASW. As we embark on a new Board and strategic planning cycle, it is heartening to see that level of dedication and commitment continue and indeed to grow.

Vivian Geiran  
IASW Chair, SW00319

## **New Pathways into Social Work – Masters level Apprenticeship and Tertiary Degree – launched**

Minister Patrick O'Donovan TD and Minister of State Anne Rabbitte TD formally launched two new pathways into social work on Friday 24 May. These are the new Tertiary Degree in Social Work (BSW) and the Apprenticeship in Social Work, the latter leading to a Masters (level 9) Degree or Post-Graduate Diploma in Social Work, both with UCC as the lead Higher Education Institution.



Some IASW members have raised questions and concerns regarding aspects of the new Apprenticeship in Social Work, including regarding the impact it may have more widely, in a number of respects.

We are planning a number of online 'town hall' type information sessions for IASW members specifically in relation to the Apprenticeship in Social Work initiative, in addition to wider communications with members, to clarify issues related to the apprenticeship, to listen to concerns and respond accordingly, where possible. Once advertised, it is hoped that as many IASW members as possible will attend the information session.

## **Scoping Possible Improvement in Provision and Coordination of Social Work Practice Placements**

The scoping report on practice placements in social work, commissioned by IASW, was published in April 2024. The report is available on our website and was also circulated to relevant employers, universities and other stakeholders.

In one follow-up action, IASW Chairperson, Vivian Geiran, recently met with senior

officials in the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science (DFHERIS), with a view to advancing a number of actions arising from the report. These include improving the accessibility and affordability of studying social work at university and specifically the need to provide financial supports to social work students while they undertake mandatory practice placements.

Motions were also passed at our recent AGM that further supports the Association's position and action on this front. Also discussed in the meeting with DFHERIS was the matter of the urgent need to improve the availability and coordination of practice placement provision in social work, among other items.

## 2024 - 2025 Board of Directors

At the AGM, the members of the IASW voted in the 2024-2024 Board of Directors!

As per the associations Constitution, Independent Director(s), Vice-Chair and Treasurer shall be appointed by the Board. The first meeting of the new Board will take place on 8 July.

5 Motions were passed during the AGM. More information on each motion can be found in the 2024 AGM minutes in the downloads [here](#).

We would like to thank our Directors for their hard work, tireless efforts, and dedication to the IASW over the last 12 months and look forward to your continued engagement with the IASW. We couldn't do all that we do, without the tremendous support we receive from our of voluntary Board of Directors.

We say goodbye to:

Majella Hickey (6yr term)  
Colletta Dalikení (6yr term)  
Gary Gartland (5yr term)  
Bridín Murphy (4yr term)

Thank you all for your years of service for the Association.

### *Our newly appointed* **BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

**Vivian Geiran**  
Chair

**Rachel McCormack**

✦✦ **Sinéad McGarry**  
**Fiachra Ó'Súilleabháin**

**Monica Hynds**  
newly elected

**Oby Enekwechi-Ibebugwu** ✦✦  
newly elected

**Siobhan Nunn**  
newly elected

**Claire McGettrick**  
independent Director

✦✦ **Denise Kirwan**  
newly elected Independent  
Director

**Una Burgess**  
newly elected Independent  
Director

## Annual General Meeting

Thank you so much to all of our members who participated in the 2024 virtual Annual General meeting. We exceeded quorum and had over 80 members in attendance.

A copy of the minutes (to be approved at 2024 AGM) and motions, can be found [here](#).

A big thank you to all those who attended! And a big congrats to the 5 winners of the AGM draw:

- Paula Donohoe
- Paul McCarthy
- James Halpenny
- Mary Macnamara
- Rachel MacCormack

Enjoy your €100 vouchers!

## 2023 Annual Report & Financial Statements

In April we released our Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ending 2023.

Year on year we are consistently improving the standard of the Annual Report, offering readers a real insight into the business of the IASW, using it as an opportunity for the IASW to tell its story, vividly, honestly and in its own unique way.

You can download a copy online now by clicking [here](#).



**UPCOMING CPD EVENTS**

Illustration of three people (two men and one woman) standing around a large lightbulb, symbolizing ideas and learning. One person is holding a ladder, another is holding a book, and the third is holding a tablet.

CPD & THE REQUIREMENTS OF REGISTRATION - A REFRESHER

MARCH 15  
12.30 - 1.45PM  
ONLINE

REGISTER & LEARN MORE HERE



**SAVE THE DATE**

WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY

JUNE 15

**Call for Practice Teachers!**



**Maynooth University**  
National University  
of Ireland Maynooth

Interested in becoming a Social Work Practice Teacher for a Masters in Social Work Student?

Maynooth University is seeking practice teachers for January 2025. To express an interest please contact

Practice Development Coordinator Jean Byrne Cummins

[Jean.byrnecummins@mu.ie](mailto:Jean.byrnecummins@mu.ie) or  
[Socialwork@mu.ie](mailto:Socialwork@mu.ie)

Or scan the QR Code to express your interest.

We look forward to welcoming you to Maynooth.



**UCC**

**University College Cork, Ireland**  
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh

Social Work Practice Teaching Practice Teaching is a dynamic CPD learning experience hear what practice teachers have to say about their experiences supervising UCC social work students on placement.

Social Workers who engage in practice teaching have continually informed us of the benefits in terms of their own continuing professional development and we have lots to offer [What is Practice Teaching?](#)

UCC would like to hear from CORU registered social workers who are interested in supervising a student on placement during 2024/2025 - placement cycles are usually from September – December and January – April.

UCC pays a placement fee, for further information please contact [swfieldwork@ucc.ie](mailto:swfieldwork@ucc.ie) or you can register your interest [Practice Teaching Expression of Interest](#)



**Trinity College Dublin**  
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath  
The University of Dublin

Practice teaching makes a really important contribution to the development of the profession of social work.

TCD is actively seeking CORU registered



The Practice Learning Team at UCD's Degree of Professional Master of Social Work (PMSW) are actively seeking CORU registered Social Workers keen to provide



Social Workers (2 years post qualification and at least 1 year in their current role) to facilitate student social work placements in September 2024 (Bachelor in Social Studies (Social Work) and January 2025 (Master in Social Work).

Practice Teacher training workshops will be provided for those interested prior to the commencement of the placement. Student Placements are normally 14 weeks in duration.

Queries can be made to Jen at [swpractice.ed@tcd.ie](mailto:swpractice.ed@tcd.ie) or please complete the form below to register your interest

### [TCD Pre-Placement Agreement and Practice Teacher Register](#)

Our students can make an important contribution to social work practice, with your guidance.

TCD pays a fee to our Practice Teachers and provide a range of resources and supports.

a student social work placement in January 2025.

Our placement dates for both 1st and 2nd year Masters students are **January 20th – April 25th, 2025** (14 weeks in total). We will be running the Practice Learning Workshop in person in UCD on January 6th and 7th January 2025.

Practice teaching can be counted as part of continuous professional development and each practice teacher will also receive a small stipend. It is €750 gross and will be taxed at the full rate.

If you can offer a placement, please complete the [Google link to the Practice Teacher Contract](#).

Any queries can also be directed to [paula.slavin@ucd.ie](mailto:paula.slavin@ucd.ie) / 087-4321435. We thank you in advance for your support and look forward to working with many of you during the next academic year.

## Update Your Personal Information

Have you changed your email, address, job or gotten a new credit card?  
Please update your account so you don't miss out on your member exclusive benefits like:

- Fitness to Practice Insurance
- The Irish Social Worker Journal
- CPD discounts
- Important updates like this newsletter

### Update your details by logging in or contacting the office:

1. Logging in
2. Select Edit Personal Details
3. Update the new info
4. Click Save

Login

## Refer a Colleague - Be in with a chance to Win a €100 National Book Token

For every member you recruit, the IASW will enter you into our monthly prize draw to win a €100 'National Book Token' Gift Voucher.

### Member Testimonial:

*"As a new starter into the profession of just one year, the IASW has been pivotal for me in terms of networking, keeping motivated in the profession with ongoing CPD training and being kept informed on such training. The role I am currently in was brought to my attention through the IASW. As a whole, being a member of the IASW has been paramount in shaping my outlook and networking with other members."*

- Amy O'Hara



Refer a  
Member

## Gift a Student with IASW Student Membership



Calling all Practice Teachers! Consider gifting your students with an IASW student membership to our community, empowering them with networking opportunities, invaluable resources, and a supportive network. Together, let's inspire and equip our future professionals. Thank you for your generosity.

Gift  
Membership

## IASW Special Interest Groups

The IASW's Special interest groups are a great way to meet and talk with your colleagues from your and other sectors. The IASW also send out calls for a SIG member to attend free trainings, events, or work groups where it would be important to have an IASW member representing the Association through attendance.

Join a Special Interest Group (SIG) to see the opportunities by [emailing us!](#)

### SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

**ADULT SAFEGUARDING &  
PROTECTION (ASAP)**

**ADULT MENTAL HEALTH  
(SWAMH)**

**ANTI-RACISM ADVISORY  
GROUP (ARAG)**

**CHILDREN & FAMILIES (C&F)**

**CHILD AND ADOLESCENT  
MENTAL HEALTH (CAMHS)**

**DISABILITY (SWID & PDS)**

**FOSTER CARE (SWIFC)**

**HEAD MEDICAL SOCIAL  
WORKERS (HMSW)**

**PRIMARY CARE (SWIPC)**



## HIQA's Health Information and Standards Impact Report 2023

We are committed to measuring the impact of the work that we do. This report summarises the impact evaluation of the work of the standards setting function, the health information function, and the National Care Experience Programme.

The purpose of the report is to demonstrate the effectiveness of our work, ensure transparency and highlight our successes.

### Health Information and Standards Impact Report



**3,029**

Members of public and health and social care professionals took part in National Engagement on Digital Health and Social Care.

**94,969**

Completions of our online learning modules on advocacy, data quality, infection prevention and control, adult safeguarding and human rights-based care.

**4,570**

Respondents to first National End of Life Survey on experiences of end-of-life care.

**1**

Learning Hub launched on [www.hiqa.ie](http://www.hiqa.ie).

**2023**

## Government approves publication of the Child Care (Amendment) Bill 2024

Child Care (Amendment) Bill 2024 will introduce a range of reforms within early learning and childcare.

The Bill will allow for childminding-specific regulations, which will enable parents using childminders to access National Childcare Scheme subsidies.

The Bill will also provide the Tusla Early Years Inspectorate with additional enforcement tools to address serious non-compliance with the Regulations in early learning and childcare services.

[Learn more here.](#)

### Invitation to RCSI Webinar: Leading Population Health in a New Era

In this webinar, we will explore the critical need for effective population health leadership. Our expert panel will share their perspectives on the opportunities and challenges faced as we strive to 'shift left' to drive better outcomes, and the need for reform to build capacity and improved population health strategy. We will also give a brief overview of the newly launched Masters in Population Health Leadership programme.

This event is designed for healthcare professionals and leaders who are

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[Learn more here.](#)

committed to enhancing population health outcomes through effective leadership and education.

#### **Our Expert Panel:**

- Dr. Sarah Barry, Director of Academic Programmes, School of Population Health, RCSI
- Dr. Emer Ahern, National Clinical Advisor & Group Lead Older Persons, Clinical Design & Innovation, Health Service Executive
- Tony Canavan, Regional Executive Officer, HSE West and North West
- Opening Address by Prof. Edward Gregg, Head of the RCSI School of Population Health

#### **Webinar Details:**

- **Date:** 19 June 2024
- **Time:** 12:00 GMT
- **Location:** Online
- **Register Here:** [Registration Link](#)

### **Paediatric Eating and Drinking at Risk Working Group & Call for Local EDAR Guidelines**

Children's Health Ireland are looking for nominations for a significant national MDT project/working group that will be getting underway shortly.

#### Background:

Healthcare professionals work with many children who have problems swallowing (dysphagia) and who may aspirate i.e. food and drink goes down the windpipe into their lungs. Some families and children may want their child to continue eating and drinking. There are no guidelines in Ireland or elsewhere in the world on how to work with children and families to make decisions and monitor outcomes when a child is eating and drinking with acknowledged risk of aspiration (EDAR).

#### Purpose and Objectives of Working Group:

To develop national multidisciplinary clinical guidelines on how to approach clinical decision making when a child is eating and drinking with acknowledged risk of aspiration (EDAR)

#### Key objectives of the group:

- To review current EDAR guidelines currently in place locally around Ireland
- To review the relevant literature in the area to inform evidence based practice.
- To write guidelines on decision making in children who are EDAR.
- To provide a forum for patients and families to identify opportunities to improve the quality of care and to participate in guideline writing.

Find EDAR Working Group [Nomination Form here.](#)





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