**Head Medical Social Workers SIG**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** 26/06/2024 **Location:** Virtual Meeting via Zoom **Chair:** Donal Gill **Secretary:** Andrea Ward

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| **Attendees** | **Apologies** |
| Eimer Gilchrist – Safeguarding Lead | Mary Duffy – Clontarf Hospital |
| Niamh Finucane – St Francis Hospice | Sarah Hyland -Naas General Hospital |
| Andrea Ward – Cappagh Hospital | Aoife O’Neill – Royal Hospital Donnybrook |
| Donal Gill – Galway Hospital | Caroline Quinn and Aishling Kearney – Galway Hospice |
| Siobhan Nunn – Portlaoise and Tullamore Hospital | Heather Hawthorne – Mater Hospital |
| Claire Winters – Peaumount Hospital |  |
| Sean Dunne – Letterkenny University Hospital |  |
| Jean Roulston -CHI Tallaght Hospital |  |
| Marie Briody – Mater Private |  |
| Maria Stanley CHI Temple Street |  |
| Louise Shanahan – Kerry Hospital |  |
| Lise Markey – St Vincents Hospital |  |
| Dearbhla Ni Riordain SSW Hospital Group |  |
| Laura Harrington – National Maternity Hospital |  |
| Louise Casey – Our lady’s hospice, Harolds Cross and Blackrock |  |
| Abi Orimolade - St Mary’s Hospital |  |
| Janice Hanlon - Tallaght Hospital |  |
| Sheila Mc Croy – Crumlin Hospital |  |
| Paula Markey – St James’s Hospital |  |
| Caroline O Meara - UL Hospital Group |  |
| Maria Leahy – Cork Maternity Hospital |  |
| Brian Foley – South Infirmary Victoria University Hospital Cork |  |
| Carol De Wilde – St Columcille’s Hospital |  |
| Louise Morgan – St Vincenty University Hospital |  |
| Maria Boyle – St Michael’s Hospital Dum Laoghaire |  |

**Previous Minutes**

Reviewed and agreed - Agreed on the condensed/summary version shared with IASW going forward.

**IASW AGM**

AGM 29th May- No updates or correspondence received.

**HMSW Group AGM Planning**

The agreed plan is to proceed with the SIG AGM, this will be a closed to the members of the group, this will be an opportunity to meet as a group given the recent changes with new members and to elect a new Chair of the group. Sub group planning in progress for the AGM. Discussion re guest speaker on issues of Safeguarding or ADM. Plan for next year’s AGM also and a proposal to IASW required for funding support for an educational event.

**Apprentice in SW Scheme**

Discussion among the group regarding the new scheme including the details and impact of the programme and the future development of this new pathway to social work to meet the need of social work graduates. Discussion regarding challenges of managing placements and impact on agencies/organisations.

**Supervision Training**

A group of PSW’s completed the x2 day online advanced supervision training, ‘Understanding Adult Attachment within Supervision’, attendees found the training very beneficial. There is a demand for the Barnardo’s supervision training, the plan is to facilitate online training for social workers in October/November, details will be sent to the group and staff can book directly with Barnardo’s.

**Forsa Sub Group**

HMSW Forsa rep suggesting that a subgroup of the HMSW meet to review how FORSA can be supportive to the group. An email will be circulated to the group to get details of Forsa members.

**NHSS Applications and Specified Persons**

Discussion regarding difficulties accessing TCF when patients’ families have not submitted the fair deal forms. Social Workers are listed as specified persons and discussion held regarding pressure put on SWs from Hospital Management to sign as specified person on CSAR or Fair Deal forms when families do not complete paperwork. Agreed that this is an example of an issue to discuss with FORSA. Discussion regarding the differences in the role of social workers across the hospitals, some without social workers and some have discharge coordinators. The group to review the fundamental work that is required in the role of medical social work and core work completed in all areas.

**ADM Posts in Acute Settings**

Chair of the group requested information on what hospitals/ organisations received posts for ADM an email will be circulated to the group to get details of the approved posts and recruited posts.

**EPOA Delays**

Secretary requested any members experiencing delays in EPOA approvals that are impacting discharge planning and transfers please update and communicate within the group.

**Children First Compliance Checks**

The Children First National Office presented to the HSE/Hospitals Groups on the roll out of the Children First Compliance checks. Details of the pilot was shared in the presentation and the expectations of the process when a hospital is selected. Concerns raised that this is a significant piece of work that will likely be the responsibility of the PSW in each hospital and that the process is extremely time consuming. All hospitals complete a number of Children First reports and checklists annually.

**HMSW and MSW SIG**

IASW sought further clarification the Chair and Secretary regarding the development of the IASW MSW SIG. Agreed that this new MSW SIG will not be affiliated with the HMSW SIG.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, 10TH September 10.30-12.00