



## A Note from our Chair, Vivian Geiran

Welcome to this autumn edition of our IASW Newsletter. A huge welcome too to our new Chief Operations Officer (COO), Caroline Strong, who takes up her post with IASW next week – see more on this development elsewhere in this Newsletter. In a similar vein, I want to welcome, on behalf of all of us, the appointment of a Chief Social Worker for the first time in the HSE and to congratulate our colleague Amanda Casey on her recent appointment to that post and wish her well. This is a hugely significant and important appointment, and something for which IASW has long campaigned. I look forward to working closely and productively with Amanda in her new role.



The coming weeks and months will be busy for IASW, in terms of CPD and other events, as well as addressing a range of issues of concern to Social Workers. Next month, our National Social Work Conference will be held in Portlaoise (on Friday 18 October). In our predominantly online world nowadays, the IASW Conference is one of the few opportunities to meet in-person with colleagues to share and discuss important issues, to network and learn from each other. I encourage as many of you as possible to attend and participate in our National Social Work Conference in Portlaoise and I look forward to seeing you there. Please spread the word among your colleagues too and let's make this a Social Work Conference to remember!

As I write, the Apprenticeship in Social Work is getting under way and we look forward to continuing to support all involved so as to further improve the accessibility and broader recruitment landscape for the profession nationally. We will also continue to address longstanding and emerging issues. These include, but are not confined to, the development of Advanced Practice in Social Work, Adult Safeguarding, Child Protection and Welfare issues – including Special Care, Special Emergency Arrangements, and the Tusla Reform Programme; and developments in Mental Health and other legislation and policy, among others. While there is much to be positive

about, in terms of developments impacting Social Work, there have been others that give cause for concern and about which we must be vigilant and take appropriate action. These include certain populist, racist and anti-immigrant narratives and actions. As Social Workers, we must continue to be strong in withstanding such negative forces and as a professional association, ensure we continue to prioritise our IASW Anti-Racism Strategy. Finally, I would remind you all of the importance and value of the work our Board Committees and Special Interest Groups do on all our behalf and encourage and thank you for your continued involvement in these.

Vivian Geiran  
IASW Chair, SW00319

## Appointment of Chief Operations Officer at IASW

On behalf of the Board of the Irish Association of Social Workers (IASW) I am delighted to announce the appointment of **Caroline Strong as our Chief Operations Officer (COO)**. Caroline, who takes up her role with IASW from 9 September 2024, has qualifications in applied social care, psychology, clinical supervision, health & safety, HR and financial management, among others; and a wealth of management experience in the social care, regulation and enterprise sectors.



Caroline will be a hugely positive addition to the small and dynamic IASW staff team, working with our membership and partner bodies, among others; leading out on the coordination and delivery of our strategic goals, on behalf of our members, the social work profession and those who use social work services.

While the COO position is a new role, the need for such an expansion of our staff team has been identified for some time as being necessary to put the organisational structure of our Association on an even stronger footing. We had flagged for some time that we have been working to make this development a reality. Now, with the support of our Board, staff and members, as well as receiving vital funding from the HSE and the Probation Service, we have been able to make the appointment a reality. Following an open competition and a competitive application and interview process held over recent months, that goal has become a reality.

As Caroline takes up her new position with IASW and 'gets her feet under the desk,' I am sure you will all give her a hearty IASW welcome, as she familiarises herself with our extensive structures and membership, as well as getting up to speed with the

various relevant ongoing issue on which IASW is working. In introducing Caroline to you and welcoming her on board, I want to reassure you that I do not envisage that we will be stopping with this important appointment, in terms of developing our organisational resources. Rather, our programme of work is such that we could usefully add further to those resources. That all said, let's focus on welcoming and supporting Caroline and the staff team first before embarking on further such developments!

***Vivian Geiran***

**Chairperson, IASW Board**



**Introduction to Social Work & the Environment - Concepts into Practice - Part One**

- Wed, 9 Oct
- Online
- €5 for members

**Human Rights, Social Work Responsibilities: Challenging Inequality, Injustice and Discrimination - IASW National Social Work Conference**

- Fri, 18 Oct
- Midlands Park Hotel, Portlaoise, Co Laois
- €40 for members

**Introduction to Social Work & the Environment - Concepts into Practice - Part Two**

- Fri, 18 Oct
- Online
- €5 for members

**Dan Hughes - Providing Therapy and Care for Children and Youth with Problems Due to Relational (Developmental) Trauma**

- Fri, 15 Nov
- Ashling Hotel, Parkgate Street, Dublin
- €80 for members

**Register for events here**



**Important dates to save in the Social Worker's Diary:**

**October**

- Thurs, 17 - International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
- Fri, 18 - World Menopause Day

**November**

- Fri, 1 - Safeguarding Ethnic Minorities Against Racial Profiling and Targeting - ARAG Conference & AGM
- Fri, 8 - National Adult Safeguarding Day
- Mon, 25 - International Day for the elimination of Violence against Women

**December**

- Tues 3 - International Day Persons with Disabilities



## 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 Practise 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 here](#)

## IASW Special Interest Groups

Our SIGs are always hard at work. Here are some updates on what they've been up to this past quarter.

### **Adult Safeguarding and Protection (ASaP) - Chair Jacinta Barrett**

ASaP held their AGM in May 2024 followed by a very informative presentation by Susie Byrne NAS and discussion. In 2024 we look forward to some interesting challenges and developments ahead following the publication of the Jackie McIlroy report Moving forward Adult Safeguarding in the HSE and the appointment of a Chief Social Worker Amanda Casey. These

**SIG  
Updates**

developments combined with the progression of the Dept of Health Adult Safeguarding Policy Proposals and Law reform Commission Regulatory framework for Adult Safeguarding lead to a time of change for Social Workers working with Adults at risk of abuse. We encourage our members to become involved in this group so we can help shape and influence and advocate for positive changes for those we support. We require new committee members to ensure this invaluable SIG can continue to grow in its ability to support and represent you and your colleagues working to promote and support adult safeguarding. We took a break over the Summer months and are currently regrouping. We are currently working on our workplan for end of 2024/ 2025 and will circulate new meeting dates in the coming weeks. The Chair has attended National Safeguarding Advisory Committee as an IASW representative and meetings with Department of Health.

#### **CAMHS - Chair Lisa Hurson**

Last meeting was held online on 14 June. Working group is being established to consider SW role within CAMHS and consider how to support this further. Members are welcome to join this group if they have an interest. CAMHS SIG have organised an event with IASW, conference with Dan Hughes, in November, currently focused on promotion, open to all SWs and other professionals. Next meeting scheduled for 6th September is AGM in Rathgar CAMHS from 10am to 3pm.

#### **Children & Families - Chair Aoife Bairead**

We have had two meetings since June, both focused on the roundtable event held in late June. We also began planning on the roundtable events regarding the Tusla restructuring which should be going ahead in the Autumn.

#### **Head Medical Social Workers (HMSW) - Co-Chairs Donal Gill & ~Aoife O'Neill**

The Head MSW Sig continues to be busy and active in relation to the role of social work within acute settings. The impact of AD(c)M Act continues to have implication for practice with the SIG continually monitors. The Head MSW SIG welcomes the recent cessation of the HSE recruitment embargo though it notes there is concern and lack of clarity regarding the much needed and vacant posts at the commencement of the embargo and whether acute social work services will now be left with an ongoing deficit as a result.

The entire Head MSW Sig offers it's congratulations at the news of the appointment of Amanda Casey and the first HSE Chief Social Worker. Amanda was a former chair and long-term member of the Head MSW group for a number of years an instrumental in many of the work, project and tasks within the group. We look forward to continued work and collaboration with her and wish her all the very best in her new and exciting role.

#### **Adult Mental Health (SWAMH) - Chair Kerry Cuskelly**

SWAMH has welcomed some new committee members on board this year which we are really delighted about. There will be an autumn in-person event on the topic of psychosocial assessments in mental health social work. Keep watching the SWAMH mailshot and IASW events page for more details. SWAMH is engaging with the current Mental Health Reform work on the Mental Health Bill 2024. The bill is a critical step in the transition towards modern, person-centred mental health services in Ireland. The Bill contains a number of important measures that will empower individuals to play a more active role in making decisions about their care and treatment. The findings from the National Engagement on Digital Health and Social Care, led by Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA), in partnership with the Department of Health and the Health Service Executive (HSE) are now launched. SWAMH were invited to be part of the process and contributed to focus groups and surveys which informed



the findings of this research. SWAMH were represented at the recent knowledge and skills framework for healthcare professionals working with older people webinar. The event highlighted the importance of inter-disciplinary working in an integrated care environment and offers many opportunities for innovation and creative practice across social work in mental health.

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)**

**Refer a Colleague - Be in with a chance to Win a €100 GIFT  
TOKEN OF YOUR CHOICE**

For every member you recruit, the IASW will enter you into our monthly prize draw to win a €100 Gift Voucher of your choice!

**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 here](#)



### 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 here](#)

### CORU Obligations



In accordance with the Social Work Registration Board Code of Professional Conduct & Ethics for Social Workers, **you must:**

## PRACTISE NAME



**practise in the name(s) under which you are registered** and always use your CORU registration number when representing yourself as a registered Social Worker

## CORU REG.

**include your CORU registration number** in all certificates, reports or other formal documents for which you are responsible, and in any information that you publish about your practice or services



## INFO CHANGES



if you change your name, address or employment, **notify the Registration Board** concerned, as soon as is practicable

## INDEMNITY INSURANCE

ensure that you **maintain adequate professional indemnity cover** for any assessment, intervention, treatment or service you provide or have provided.



**Don't worry, the IASW has you covered, read more about our insurance cover here!**

## Additional Needs Payment for funeral expenses

The Dept. of Social Protection has a new leaflet with information on assistance with funeral costs. They are planning to do an online session on how to arrange a funeral for a deceased person if a next of kin cannot be found.

If you would like to order hard copies of the leaflet or are interested in the online training please contact [CWSMSTADMIN@welfare.ie](mailto:CWSMSTADMIN@welfare.ie)

#### How do I apply?

Please complete the SWA5 application form.

You can ask for a form to be posted to you at [gov.ie/cwsforms](http://gov.ie/cwsforms)

Forms are also available for download at [gov.ie/FuneralExpenses](http://gov.ie/FuneralExpenses)

Send the completed form along with relevant supporting documents to FREEPOST, P.O. Box 13599, Galway. You can also bring them to your local Intreo Centre or Branch Office.

If you need to see a CWO in person, please phone the National Community Welfare Contact Centre on **0818 607080** and you will be directed to the appropriate office.

All Community Welfare Service locations can be found at [gov.ie/cwsmap](http://gov.ie/cwsmap)

#### How is it paid?

Where the department provides financial support, the payment can be made to the funeral director.

#### More information

Further information on the supports available following the bereavement of a family member is available from your local Community Welfare Service or at [gov.ie/bereavement](http://gov.ie/bereavement)

Point your phone camera at the QR code, wait for the code to scan and then open the QR code content to read more online.



## Additional Needs Payment for funeral expenses

Brought to you by the  
Department of Social Protection



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland



Irish Association of Social Workers | 114-116 Pearse Street St Andrews Resource Center  
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