

## Head Medical Social Workers SIG Meeting Minutes

**Date:** 10/09/2024 **Location:** Virtual Meeting via Zoom **Chair:** Aoife O'Neill **Secretary:** Donal Gill

Attendees	Apologies
Aoife O'Neill	Andrea Ward
Brian Foley	Paula Markey
Caroline McInerney Layng	Heather Hawthorne
Mary Duffy	Catherine Walsh
Caroline O'Meara	Siobhan Nunn
Deirdre McLoughlin	Anne Hegarty
Maria Leahy	Maria Boyle
Laura Harrington	Marie Briody
Niamh Finucane	Aisling Kearney
Louise Shanahan	Caroline Quinn
Lisa Markey	
Carol de Wild	
Emma Maloney	
Karen Farrell	
Abi Orimolade	
Jean Roulston	
Sheila McCrory	
Anne O'Loughlin	

### Previous Minutes

Reviewed and agreed – No comments/issues

### Head MSW SIG AGM

Discussion held about proposed additional meeting in October to be held in-person in Merlin Park Hospital Campus, Galway. Noted that the venue cannot facilitate a hybrid type meeting for virtual link so it may not best suit majority if unable to attend to schedule AGM for that day. Meeting agreed for AGM to be set for following meeting which will be virtual and to look at election of officers for the New Year.

Donal reminded that he will be stepping down as chair at the meeting of 27<sup>th</sup> November as gave a commitment for one year only given change last year to SIG and IASW membership.

## **IASW National Conference**

### **Workshop presenter at IASW National Conference**

Meeting noted request from IASW from those working in acute medical sites to participate in workshops during national conference in October. Carol de Wild and Caroline O'Meara happy to be put forward to see if they can assist. Carol will also discuss with Maria Boyle.

### **IASW CPD event application form 2025**

Siobhan Nunn made contact with Donal before going on leave to advise she was happy to follow up on an application for CPD event for 2025 if the meeting would like to consider same. Meeting discussed same and feel to have an event would be beneficial to the whole group and wider acute social work practice. Also noted the impact ADM is having on work and caseloads and if it would be something to consider to have an event focused on this with possible speakers such as Caoimhe Gleeson in HSE Human Rights Office or Amanda Casey in her role as Chief Social Worker.

### **IASW nomination to participate in commission for older persons**

Email request received from IASW that went to group seeking interest from members to participate in commission for older persons. Those interested are asked to email IASW back and notify co-chairs of same.

### **Forsa Sub Group**

Meeting discussed the benefits of establishing a sub group to engage with union in relation to matters related to hospital based social work practice and services. Majority of acute services are impacted by recruitment embargo, impact of the pay and numbers strategy, implementation of ADM in absence of staffing resources and continued pressure of overcrowding in hospitals and unrealistic expectations of the social work role within same. Donal to seek a response from group members who are also union members and from that seek a smaller number interested in being part of a working group.

### **Supervision Training**

Previous training offered by Barnardos was very successful and feedback was very positive from those that attended. Meeting also noted supervision training offered by HSE which is also based on Tony Morrison work. Persons wishing to apply for same need to have completed module on HSE land first.

Current training by Barnardos is fully booked. Laura happy to follow up with them regarding additional dates for training, likely to be February/March 2025.

### **HSE Recruitment Issues and impact to MSW services**

AS per discussion under Forsa topic, the meeting noted the impact the recent embargo has had on MSW services, particularly on newly funded posts that now appear lost. Concern is noted regarding the lack of backfilling positions, particularly maternity leaves.

### **Social Work KPIs**

Aoife wondered if there were set KPIs operating in any service. The Royal Hospital has commenced a group looking at KPIs across the service and there is a MSW rep on same. Their department are initially looking at referral response times/prioritisation and making contact with SGPT around Safeguarding reporting. There doesn't appear to be set national guidance or standards for social work specific KPIs.

**MSW WTE Recommendations**

Meeting noted recent discussion via email thread on lack of guidance or recommended WTE for MSWs in acute sites. Donal advised on work he had done previously under the various HSE/DOH Models of Care documents to extract recommended WTE/Ratios where they existed but noted a majority of the documents recommend MSW as part of MDT rather than specify a particular resource or WTE quantity. Meeting noted this was something that we need to consider as a group in terms of the ongoing and developing role of social work in hospital and health settings and safe staffing and appropriate practice into the future.

**AOB**

N/A

**Next Meeting**

- In-person meeting for Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2024 in Merlin Park Hospital Campus 10.30am-3pm.
- Virtual meeting Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2024 – zoom invite to issue via IASW 2.00pm – 3.30pm