**Progressing Disability Services Social Workers in Disabilities**

**Special Interest Group (PDS SWiD SIG)**

**Venue/ Platform: Online, 3pm to 4:30pm Date: 28/11/2024**

**Chair:** Eibhlín Fleming ([fleminge@cope-foundation.ie](mailto:fleminge@cope-foundation.ie) )

**Co-ordinators:** Colman Parker ([Colman.Parker@stewartscare.ie](mailto:Colman.Parker@stewartscare.ie) ), Eibhlín Fleming

**Minutes:** Emmet Corrigan ([emmet.corrigan@hse.ie](mailto:emmet.corrigan@hse.ie) )

**Attendance:** 11 in attendance.

**Representation noted from:** Geographical representation from: Dublin/ Kildare x 4 (CHO9/ CHO7), Laois/ Offaly x 2 (CHO8), Wexford x 1 (CHO5), Galway x 2 (CHO 2), Cork x 2 (CHO4)

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| **Discussion** | **Outcome** |
| **Welcomes,**  **Review minutes from most recent PDS SWiD meeting 24/09/2024**  **&**  **Agenda set out for today.** | Eibhlín welcomed all to meeting.  Minutes check in from 24/09/2024 - See previous minutes.  **Today’s agenda** set out taking on board previous meeting minutes and outstanding actions:   1. **The PDS Roadmap** 2. **Respite update** 3. **Information Management System (IMS)** 4. **PDS – Representative from PDS Social Work for upcoming Oireachtas meeting** 5. **Regional meetings/ Circle of Support to Social Work/ Sharing of Resources** 6. **Good Practice… What’s working well in areas?** 7. **AGM for SWiD - A Reminder!** 8. **AOB…** |
| **1.**  **The PDS Roadmap** | * Again acknowledging that there are many strands to the HSE PDS Roadmap eg Forsa representation and input through the 5 pillars, Disability Advisory Groups (DAGS), National Federation of Social Workers resources, etc…  1. ***Working Group 1:*** *National Integrated Services for AON, NAP & Joint Protocol.* 2. ***Working Group 2:*** *Service Access & Improvement* 3. ***Working Group 3:*** *Workforce* 4. ***Working Group 4:*** *Communication & Engagement* 5. ***Working Group 5:*** *Engagement with Education & Support for Special Schools*  * We acknowledged that this will be a continuous agenda topic and highly relevant to ensure Social Work input.   Catherine Rafter who is a representative on a working group gave feedback to meeting:   * All working groups are now up and running with exception of Education. * In Catherine’s working group, a prioritisation tool is almost ready for circulation and it was noted that this stems from a prioritisation tool that was worked on by a Subgroup out of SWiD and credit given in respect of this piece of work. * In Group composition, there is CDNMs, 2 clinical reps, a Forsa Rep… * In total there are 8 Social Workers engaged across the working groups.   Agreed Actions/ Outcome:   * Any updates received by SIG members to be shared at next meeting. |
| **2.**  **Respite Update** | * An ongoing topic/ issue of concern for this SiG. * There is a Respite subgroup in place and the goal remains that a national standardised approach is the aim. * Consistency in respite pathways and delivery is a goal but in our discussion there are varieties of processes, often dependent on resources in existence noted. * Examples given by Eibhlin of use of re-use/ re-purposed buildings used in their area for Day Respite provision, problems arising in terms of frequency of respite when young person turning 18 years. * Ring fenced resources are required – especially pertinent in terms of escalation pathway when a crisis occurs – which led into some discussion about Social Workers in some areas being brought into holding risk when the meeting consensus was that CEO and Clinical Directors should hold risk if respite is sought out and not achieved. In some area’s there are Risk Meetings in existence and Integrated Managers review such.   Agreed actions/ Outcome:   * To keep respite on SWiD in PDS agenda. |
| **3.**  **Information Management System**  **(IMS)** | * The topic of IMS is to be maintained on agenda – with some comments today remarking that the “IMS is clunky”, “rigid”, mixed views on “Red Tab” function, “all back to metrics”, “all recording related back to TANS”, “Dilutes efficiency”, …   Agreed Actions/ Outcome:   * IMS Subgroup formed at today’s meeting: Caroline Greene and Catherina Leonard (Kildare), Emmet Corrigan (Laois/ Offaly), Helen Spillane (Wexford) and Gretta Keane (Limerick) to meet to discuss between now and February. * To be returned to PDS SWiD agenda for next meeting in February 2025 – and invite to be put to Gretta who volunteered to be share IMS feedback in May’s PDS SWiD meeting   eg (from May 2024)*”If any members wish to give direct input/ feedback on use of IMS in their practice, they can do so to* [*gkeane@stGabriels.ie*](mailto:gkeane@stGabriels.ie)*” (“as Gretta’s manager is on IMS oversight group)…”* |
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| **4.**  **Representative from PDS Social Work for upcoming Oireachtas meeting** | Email from Danielle McGoldrick IASW manager with letter dated 29/07/2024 read out by Eibhlin in September 2024’s meeting - letter containing joint professionals bodies perspective eg SLTs, OTs, Dieticians, Physiotherapists, Psychologists and Social Work.   * The then Cathaoirleach Patrick Costello wished to invite representatives from PDS Social work – Oireachtas meeting which will be at short notice. * The PDS SWiD document; “*Survey of Social Workers’ Experience of Supervision and Management in Children’s Disability Network Teams July 2023*” was noted as a good reference point to highlighting Social Work experiences on the ground at present. * Liam Keogh agreed to carry out this role and PDS SWiD SIG is very grateful for Liam’s commitment to this. Liam, Catherine and Ritchie (Chair of SWiD) met to plan for same but given that general elections have become a factor, such a meeting is deferred.   Agreed Actions/ Outcome:   * Await update /if any on deferred Oireachtas meeting. |
| **5.**  **Regional meetings/ Circle of Support to Social Work/ Sharing of Resources** | * It is Social Work Awareness week (Thanks Catherine!). * It was acknowledged that there may be peer support groups/ circles of support already in place around Ireland which may offer some reason as to why our IASW PDS SWiD SIG numbers have been down. * It was advised that s per census, there are 196 Social Workers across the CDNTs in Ireland. * Disparity and inequity of Social Work posts in CDNTs was noted across Ireland and in unsafe isolated areas of the country – particularly where lone working is occurring, the aim to bring such to the union was recommended. * Challenges noted in Galway and other areas - due to staffing, groupwork delivery is being impacted/ not prioritised. * The resource of “Practice Links” through Kenneth Burns of UCC was noted in today’s meeting as a valuable resource; particular reference to Supporting parents and resources being free. [k.burns@ucc.ie](mailto:k.burns@ucc.ie)   Agreed Actions / Outcome:   * Mapping of Social Workers if possible across the CHOs could provide clarity and develop further connections amongst Social Workers in CDNTS. * It was agreed that for the next meeting in February, we could connect with others in our CHO’s and ensure the awareness of our SIG is known/ next meeting date, sharing of minutes, etc… |
| **6.**  **Good Practice… What’s working well in areas?** | Eibhlín raised the need to name what is happening across the country in terms of good practice. Examples that came forward:   * Incorporation of Social Work input with the *Hanen Programme* – often after 4 or 5 sessions – with a focus on “*adjusting to a diagnosis*”, “A focus on *Self-care*”. Very well received in this CDNT area. * *Introduction to Services* is being led out by Social Work in St Michael’s House Dublin and a *Welcome to service* workshop in Laois Offaly. * *Parenting Plus Special Needs (PPSN)* is being delivered by Social Work in Kildare CDNT area – Helen, Catherina and Colman all citing its value. * *Adjusting to a diagnosis* piece being delivered in one area. * *Early bird* programme delivery. * *Non Violent Resistance Programme (NVR)* is being delivered to good impact in Cork – “huge positives” - a comment made on how “it develops the toolkit on how to engage with children in disabilities”. * *All about Autism* is another programme being run in a CDNT area. * *Sibshops* are being run bi-annually with amalgamated CDNTs and in a rotating interdisciplinary manner alongside Social Work - something that is being successful in Laois/ Offaly. * *Thog na Nog* was shared as another positive resource. * *Circle of Security* is a programme carried out in Galway. * *Puberty Workshops* commencing in Laois Offaly between disciplines of Social Work and Nursing.   Agreed Actions / Outcome:   * Benefits in sharing this good practice noted. It was agreed to maintain as a regular agenda item. |
| **7.**  **AGM for SWiD – A Reminder!** | * Catherine Rafter reminded meeting that there is an upcoming AGM scheduled in the next 2 weeks and attendance is welcomed. * Date of 4th December 2024, 3pm online.   Agreed Actions / Outcome:   * Attendance encouraged if possible. |
| **8.**  **AOB...** |  |
| **Next meeting:** | **27/02/2025 at 3pm - Online format** |

**Minute Taker:**

**Emmet Corrigan SW003017**

**Senior Social Worker, Barrow CDNT11 (Laois/ Offaly)**