

**Special Interest Group on Ageing (SIGA) Meeting**

**Monday, 10 March 2025 (1pm)**

**Minutes**

**Present:** Sally Veale, Aine Delaney, Alison McMahon, Emma Coyle, Linda, Roslyn McConnell, Aine Kearney, Ashely Gore (Chair), Stephen Langton (Secretary).

Apologies: Daisy Twohig

Ashley Gore chaired the meeting and Stephen Langton took the minutes.

**Agenda Item 1 - Reestablishment of Special Interest Group on Aging**

**(Goals for SIG)**

* This was the first meeting back for the SIG on ageing and as such there was agreement on the importance of this SIG as the variety and complexity of the various aspects older persons and ageing, demand a social work voice and platform from with the IASW.
* Agreement that an earlier reminder should be sent for any upcoming meetings as the first notification coming out on the morning can be problematic.
* That this forum is an opportunity to advance concerns social workers have in ageing as well as providing an avenue to both peer support and networking.
* That a wide-ranging array of topics be available to explore and find avenues of support from the current focus on ADM to home supports to grandparent carers that topics can cross the full spectrum of social work disciplines and beyond.

**Agenda Item 2 National Frailty Education Training**

Sally Veale offered insight into the current module offered through [HSE land](https://www.hseland.ie/ekp/servlet/ekp?PX=N&TEACHREVIEW=N&PTX=&CID=EKP000012684&TX=FORMAT1&LANGUAGE_TAG=0&DECORATEPAGE=N) on frailty highlighting its reversibility and the focus of the programme cognition, polypharmacy and exercise. The programme is being sought to have a full roll out for any clinicians working with an ageing population and is linked through The Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing [(TILDA)](https://tilda.tcd.ie/)

Sally has put herself forward to be SW Representative for National Frailty Education Programme for the General Public. The SIG wish her well in this venture.

**Agenda Item 3 AOB**

Mary Anne raised concerns over the expectation on social workers in relation to the ADM and where the line is for social workers in their role supporting families with relation to paperwork for DMR cases. The spectre of cases remaining open on where a person may have moved to a nursing home hundreds of miles away yet the original assigned SW is required to remain involved from both a legal and supportive way for families. A divergence of views and experience were relayed from a pre ADM period in respect to Care Reps and Ward of Courts as well as the current backlog in EPAs and time taken to see DMR cases finalised. Ashley has agreed to contact national office lead to establish if any procedures or guidelines are in place to circulate.with the view of raising the issue at the SIG chair meeting this week.

The Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) latest draft for [National Standards for Home Support Services](file:///C:\Users\ashleygore1\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Outlook\X37AFM32\Draft%20Home%20support%20standards%20for%20Advisory%20Group%20March%202025.pdf) was brought up for discussion and the potential impact this may have in the delivery of home supports within the community. Due to the importance to this area of work, it has been agreed to be included as an ongoing agenda item until further clarity is established.

**Action items:**

1. Ashley to contact national office over ongoing SW involvement in relation to DMR cases.
2. Inclusion of National Standards for Home Support Services as an ongoing agenda link
3. SIGA Secretary to ensure reminders for meeting prove sufficient time for members to schedule in their diaries.

Ashley thanked all in attendance and closed the meeting.

**Date of next meetings:** 12 May at 1pm (Zoom)

7 July at 1pm (Zoom)

**Minutes taken by:** Stephen Langton (Secretary)