**Feedback on Key issues raised by SIGs:**

**Potential Briefing Papers for IASW**

**April 2019**

**Head Medical Social Workers (HMSW) - Associate Group of IASW:** Key Issues

**1. Access to services**

**2. Increase in homelessness**

**3. Access to social work services**

**1.** there is a lack of consistent access to services and funding to support people living in their own homes for as long as possible. A statutory framework for home care is urgently required to ensure equity of access to home supports nationally and across the age spectrum from paediatrics and disability to older persons care.

**2.** the increase in homelessness is having a direct impact on both the short- and long-term health outcomes for children and adults and a new integrated approach to health and social care support is urgently required.

**3.** there is inconsistent access nationally to professionally qualified social work services. Many hospitals do not have a social work service meaning that the most vulnerable service users are without the skills and expertise of a social worker for advocacy, counselling support, risk management and case planning.