



IASW NEWSLETTER

March 2020

Welcome to the Spring edition of **IASW Newsletter** where we give an overview of activities and keep you up to date with the work of the Board, the Council and the staff.

We had a wonderful response to the All-Ireland Survey on Social Work Professionalism and continue to work closely with our partners BASW NI, CORU and NISCC. The great response has provided a very rich source of data to inform our next steps. We will keep you posted. Watch out for a Focus Group coming to a town near you very soon!

The Board, Council and staff of the IASW continue to have a very busy work schedule. We do our best to respond to issues as they arise but the landscape is very broad. We have been working hard on responding to new policies in the interest of promoting best practice in Social Work in Ireland. A response to CASP (Child Abuse Substantiation Policy), and a response to a proposed Regulatory Framework for Adult Safeguarding are examples of two pieces of work that are current. We have also been doing significant work on IASW policies and codes since our last newsletter.

Our interaction with other professional associations has strengthened over the past months, drawn together by the HSE's attempts to bring all Health and Social Care professionals in their employ under the control of the Chief Nursing Officer. This is not acceptable to any of the professional bodies and we have made a joint case to the minister asking that the HSE come up with a specific post to represent Health and Social Care professionals and the many services provided by them.

The IASW has also lobbied the Minister for Health, all political parties, TDs and Senators regarding the delivery of appropriate professional supervision and management in Social Work. Maintaining service quality, avoiding staff burn out, and improving recruitment and retention issues, go hand in hand with the right leadership, supervision and management in any profession. We are asking that social workers are provided with the type and structure of supervision indicated in literature and by best practice guidance.

We have looked forward to World Social Work Day. Clashing this year with our national holiday St Patrick's Day, celebrations were dampened by the Coronavirus situation. Please keep healthy and well over the next months and take all precautions advised to protect you and your family.

Thank you for your continuing support. Please spread the good news that IASW is growing and seeking to grow further!

Written by: Aine McGuirk - Chair, SW004099

COVID-19 and the IASW

Dear Members of The Irish Association of Social Workers,
IASW has been following all HSE and government guidelines with regard to the COVID-19 crisis.

From Monday March 16th all of our staff have been working from home and are contactable by mobile phone or e-mail on their working day.

Danielle: officemanager@iasw.ie Tel. 087 7392420 (9am to 12noon only)

Cliona: cpdofficer@iasw.ie Tel. 086 787 9752

Marina: administrator@iasw.ie Tel. 086 024 1055

IASW events have been postponed.

We plan to continue working within the current constraints and will continue to support you in the best way that we can.

We wish you and your family good health.

Written by: Danielle McGoldrick - Office Manager

[HSE COVID-19 Guidelines](#)

For Support Services Information for yourself, friends, family members and colleagues, please visit our website by clicking below:

[Support Services Information](#)

The Irish Social Worker

The last edition of the **The Irish Social Worker Journal - Winter 2019**, was sent to all members on the post on the 14th of February 2020.

This special edition of the Irish Social Worker, open access, practice and research journal featured articles from the IASW National Conference and the All Ireland Social Work Research Conference 2019 among others. It contains something for everyone, featuring a variety of articles from across the profession, several book reviews and wonderful tributes to the late Noreen Kearney & Margaret Beaumont. The journal is already available for all members to download on PDF format on the IASW web-page.

The Journal Committee are **Calling for Articles** for the next edition. You can access a copy of the Guidelines for writing an article by clicking below.

If you are a member and you haven't received your copy on the post, please contact the Office Administrator at administrator@iasw.ie.
Written by: Marina Tiribelli - Office Administrator



The Irish Social Worker

Open Access & Practice Research Journal

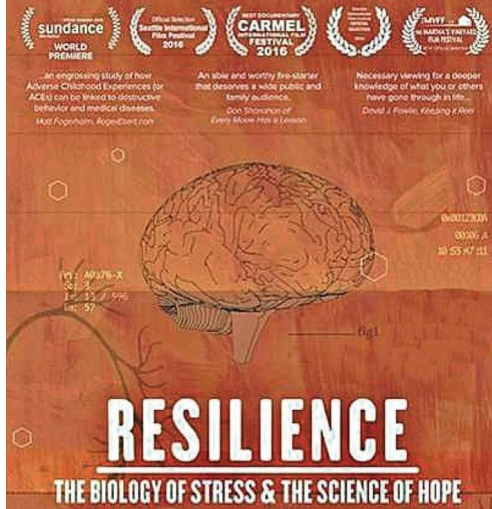
Winter 2019 (Price €10)



[Guidelines for writing an article](#)

IASW Events and Trainings

What have we done on the first few months of the year?



Social Work with Families in Mental Health Settings

A Position Paper

Irish Association of Social Workers

Social Workers in Adult Mental Health Special Interest Group

Film & Panel Discussion on Resilience: The Biology of Stress and The Science of Hope

The screening of "Resilience" took place on the 4th of February and was organised by Social Care Ireland and the IASW with 55 people registered to attend.

Resilience is a one-hour documentary that delves into the science of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and the birth of a new movement to treat and prevent toxic stress., and shows how extremely stressful experiences can alter brain development and have lifelong effects on health and behaviour. A panel discussion chaired by Cliona Murphy, CPD Officer, took place afterwards.

For more information on the content of this event please click below.

Written by: Marina Tiribelli - Office Administrator

Picture: Cover of the DVD "Resilience: The Biology of Stress and The Science of Hope"

Visit our website

Family Focused Practice: The Role of Mental Health Social Work

Organised by the IASW SIG, Social Workers in Adult Mental Health, this event took place on the 21st of February and had 60 attendants. It primarily aimed to feature the launch of the Position Paper on Family Focused Practice in Mental Health Social Work.

The position paper was prepared with the intention of offering a view on the role of social work with families in mental health settings in Ireland. It begins with a review of selected literature, followed by a description of the methodology used to carry out the pilot study and concludes with recommendations for mental health policy and social work practice in this field.

The event also included a variety of speakers. For more information on the content of this event please click below.

Written by: Marina Tiribelli - Office Administrator

Picture: Front Page of the Position Paper

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Choosing to Live with Harm? Exploring



ACEs Academic and Practice Forum -

Autonomy, Mental Incapacity and Inability to Safeguard

On the 20th of February, this seminar co-hosted by the HSE National Safeguarding Office, UCD and the IASW, took place at the Aisling Hotel with over 120 people registered. Ms. Kathryn Mackay, Lecturer in Social Work at Stirling University, was in charge of presenting the subject. This seminar was of great importance as inquiries into the failure to protect adults from harm and abuse highlights the need for practitioners to better assess an adult's ability to safeguard themselves as distinct from mental incapacity. The presentation was followed by a panel discussion.

For more information on the content of this seminar please click below.

Written by: Marina Tiribelli - Office Administrator

Picture: Tim Hanly (HSE), Kathryn Mackay (University of Stirling), Cliona Murphy (CPD Officer IASW), Freda Quinlan (HSE) and Sarah Donnelly (UCD)

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Domestic Violence

This event was carried out by the IASW ACEs Associate Group in collaboration with the School of Social Work & Social Policy of Trinity College Dublin.

It took place the 2nd of March in TCD and had over 100 registrations as well as TCD students in attendance.

A member of the ACEs Associate group provided a brief overview of what ACEs are. Afterwards, Professor Stephanie Holt from TCD explored what research is telling us about domestic violence as an ACE and David McDunphy, from Daughters of Charity, Dublin Safer Families Service, described his practical application of ACEs knowledge in responding to service users where domestic violence is a concern. The topic was later opened to the audience for discussion.

For more information on the content of this event please click below.

Written by: Marina Tiribelli - Office Administrator

Picture: Presentation and attendants

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Working with families with a child with anxiety – a solution-focused approach

This event took place on the 25th of February and was an interdisciplinary event run by Social Care Ireland and the IASW.

This workshop introduced participants to a solution-focused model for working with children, adolescents and families:

1. Understanding Anxiety,
2. Introduction to a strengths-based approach to working with children, adolescents and parents &
3. Specific interventions for Anxiety such as C.B.T.

The training was delivered by Dr. John Sharry, social worker, psychotherapist and solution-focused trainer with over 25 years experience working in Child and Adolescent Mental Health as well as consulting with individuals and organisations.

For more information on the content of this workshop please click below.

Written by: Marina Tiribelli - Office Administrator

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Assisted Decision Making (Capacity) Act 2015

This two-day training took place on the 11th and 12th of February, run by Social Care Ireland and the IASW.

The Assisted Decision Making (Capacity) Act was signed into law on the 30th December 2015. The Act is about supporting decision making and maximising a person's capacity to make decisions.

The aim of the course was to provide front-line health and social care practitioners with the knowledge and skills required to implement it into everyday practice.

Josephine McLoughlin, provided this training. She is the Director of Legal Capacity Training Ltd, a company which inspires health and social care practitioners to embrace the values and principles of the Convention.

For more information on the content of this training please click below.

Written by: Marina Tiribelli - Office Administrator

[Visit our website](#)

Building Professional Resilience

This full day workshop took place on the 6th of March. The aim was to introduce the practice of mindfulness meditation and self-compassion as genuine supports in the art of building resilience, enhancing listening and communication skills, and nourishing ourselves as health and social care professionals. Some of the learning outcomes were:

- Learning the practical skills of mindfulness meditation,
- Learn a range of mindfulness practices for daily use to minimise stress,
- Develop a toolbox of internal skills &
- Develop methods to respond compassionately to physical pain, stress, difficult emotions and thought patterns, among others.

The workshop was facilitated by Alvina Cassidy.

For more information on the content of this workshop please click below.

Written by: Marina Tiribelli - Office Administrator

[Visit our website](#)

IASW CPD Accreditation update

Please be advised that the IASW has chosen to **discontinue** our CPD accreditation service.

The main reason we are no longer providing this service is due to the fact that, it is the individual social worker's responsibility to allocate CPD credits themselves (as stated in the CORU SWRB CPD Framework) for new and enhanced learning resulting from attendance at the event. This is based on the principle that one hour of learning is equal to one CPD credit.

For more information about CPD please click below.

Written by: Danielle McGoldrick - Office Manager

[CORU Frequently Asked Questions - CPD](#)

General CPD update

The CPD Officer, Cliona Murphy, returned from a career break in November and over the past few months she was engaged in key tasks concerning Continuing Professional Development.

The first task was collating and analysing your feedback on CPD needs and how the IASW can best support your professional development. This process was largely informed by the evaluation forms completed at IASW CPD Events in 2019 and the 2018 Survey of IASW Member CPD Needs. Data collected through the 2019 Survey of IASW Member CPD Needs was also used to inform the review and build on what has worked to date and move away from activities that members don't find particularly useful or supportive.

On another hand, CORU commenced a review of their CPD approach in 2017. The review was completed in October 2019. For your convenience, the IASW CPD Resources section was updated with:

- a summary of the key learning from the audit of social workers' CPD portfolios,
- a summary of the revised CPD requirements of registration &
- the new CORU documents to support registrants' CPD

You can use the CORU sample CPD record template to record your learning and the impact of your engagement in CPD. Finally, the IASW CPD folder comprising the IASW CPD policy, supporting documentation and resources is under review.

Please click below to access all the updates.

Written by: Cliona Murphy - CPD Officer

IASW 50th Anniversary



Dear IASW Members,

Next year, 2021, marks the 50th anniversary of the IASW. To celebrate this milestone, the IASW Board are planning some events to take place during that year. We will keep you posted about these.

In the meantime, if anyone has photographs of IASW social work events over these past 50 years we would be very pleased if we could borrow them.

Please contact the office at: administrator@iasw.ie to arrange collection or if you have them in electronic format, send them via email.

Thank you very much in anticipation.

John Brennan

Written by: John Brennan - Vice Chair of the IASW

Other News



European Social Work Research Association's Outstanding Publication Award

Dr Kenneth Burns, Dr Siobhan O'Sullivan and Professor Alastair Christie of the School of Applied Social Studies have received the *European Social Work Research Association's* 'outstanding publication award'. The award was received for a research article published in the *British Journal*

of Social Work. This highly prestigious award is presented once a year by ESWRA for a research paper of outstanding quality. The unanimous decision by the selection committee recognised the uniqueness of the study design, the impact and the quality of the research undertaken. You can read more about the paper on the journal's web-page by clicking below.

Written by: Dr Kenneth Burns - Member of the IASW

Photo: Professor Alastair Christie, Dr Siobhan O'Sullivan and Dr Kenneth Burns

The British Journal of Social Work

Internship at the IASW



From Monday 10th of February until Friday 28th of February, Valentina Erne did an internship at the IASW. Valentina, a 19 year old student from Friedrichshafen in Germany, came to us through Atlas Language School and helped the the Office Administrator and the CPD Officer with a variety of tasks. We were very happy with her contributions during the three weeks she spent with us.

Some of the tasks she helped amongst others were:

- Doing a geographical breakdown of members by County.
- Preparing CPD Packs for training and events.
- Helping prepare the envelopes for the delivery of the Journal.
- Collating CPD evaluation forms.
- Sending emails.

We want to thank Valentina for her help and wish her best of luck on her return to Germany.

Written by: Marina Tiribelli - Office Administrator

Photo: Valentina Erne

Important information



Keep your information up to date

In early 2020, members have been receiving emails from the office aiming to update the information we have on file.

It is important that your information is up to date so you receive our emails and **DON'T MISS OUT** on conferences and seminars, networking opportunities, up-to-date CPD materials and – Fitness to Practise Legal Expense Cover!

The 2019 Journal was printed and sent to your home in mid-February. Let us know if you have not receive it!

Remember you can always log in with your email and password and update your details as well as your **payment method** at any time.

If you can't log in or you need to change membership category, contact the Office Administrator and let us know.



We need YOUR help!!!

The IASW is run by members for members.

If we ask that **each member recruits one new member**, and everyone does this, we would succeed in reaching our goal of **2000 members by December 2020**



Competition for members

Neil Thompson of Avenue Professional Development Programme (APDP) online learning community has kindly offered IASW members three free places for 12 months (normal price £99 plus VAT). If you are committed to self-directed learning and would like one of the places, please submit a short piece on "**What professionalism in social work means to me**" in no more than 300 words to cpdofficer@iasw.ie by Thursday, 9th April. Information about the Programme can be found in their web-page by clicking below.

Written by: Cliona Murphy - CPD Officer

The Avenue Professional Development Programme

Submissions and Representations

To download all submissions please visit the IASW website by clicking below

List of all submissions and communications so far in 2020:

1. General Election 2020 - IASW calling on Social Workers to make their voices heard in #GE2020
2. IASW calling for Feedback re. New Tusla CASP Guidelines
3. Social Workers Call for the HSE to resolve professional issues - Advertisement of Chief Nursing Officer (CNO) Post

The IASW is invited to participate in many advisory, expert review and focus groups. We also receive invitations to a wide variety of events. In addition, we also meet with CORU, Tusla, Ministers, Government Departments and the media.

List of all representations so far in 2020:

1. National Safeguarding Advisory Committee
2. Prevention and Early Intervention Network Regional Briefings
3. European Child Guarantee seminar with Prof Hugh Frazer
4. Tusla Members' Network Meeting
5. Policy Forum Event 'Cameras in Care Situations
6. Launch of HSE explainer video for Assisted Decision Making (Capacity) Act
7. Optimising the Impact of HSCP in Representative Roles
8. PEIN New Working Group - PEI for Children and Families living in Direct Provision
9. Launch of Report Card 2020
10. Member Dialogue with Tusla, the Child and Family Agency

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