

The Irish Social Worker



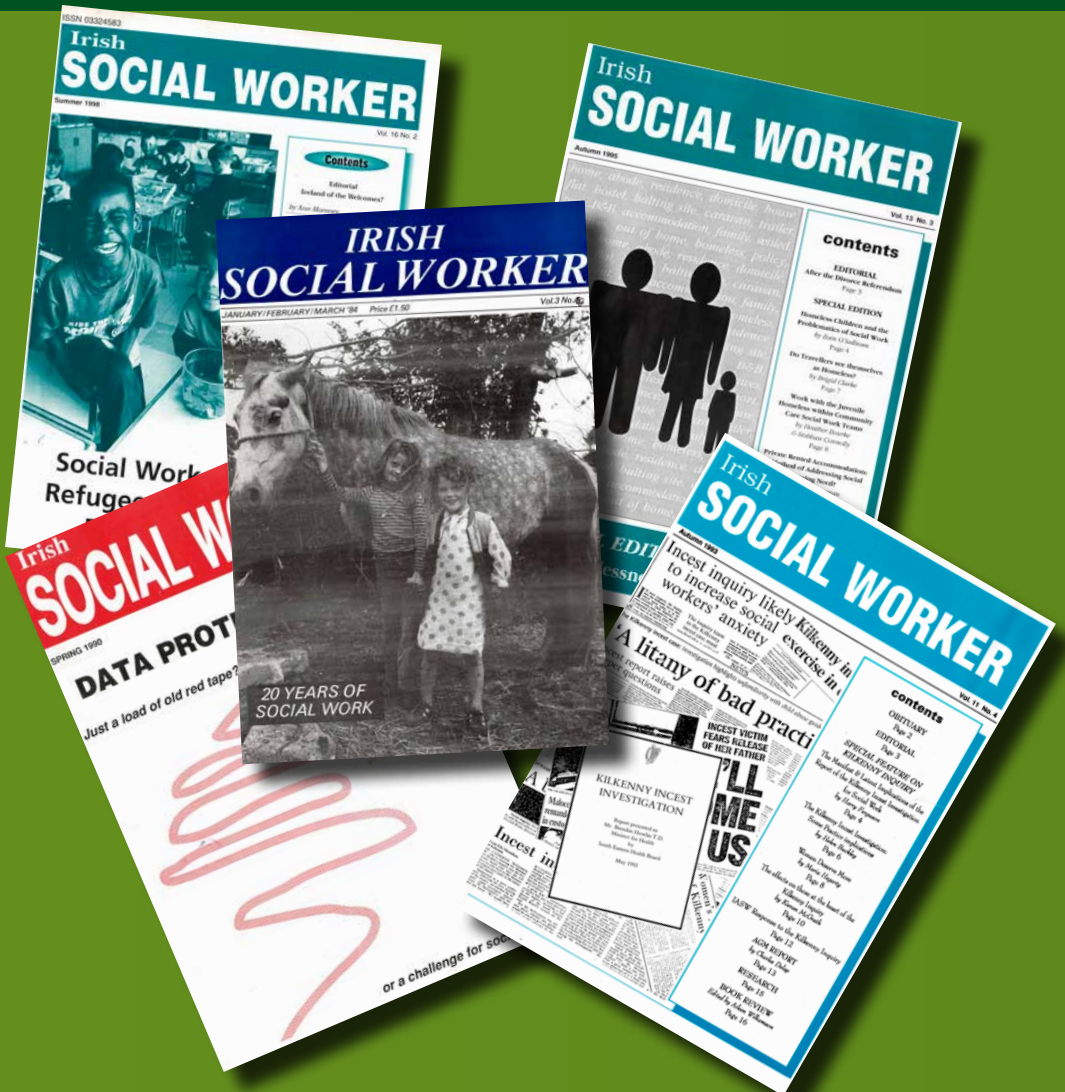
IASW

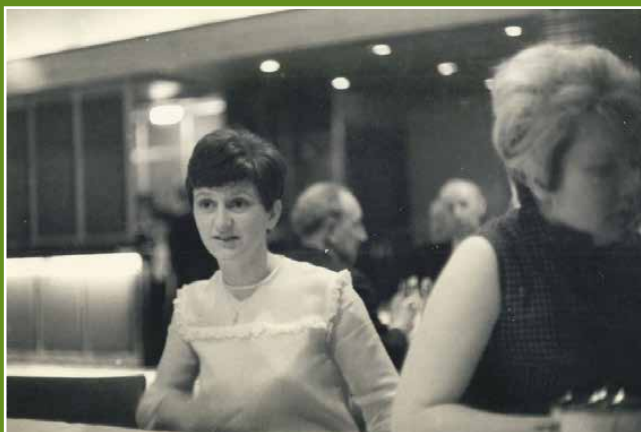
Irish Association of Social Workers
Cumann na hÉireann um Oibríthe Sóisialta

ISSN 0332-4583

Open Access Practice and Research Journal

Winter 2021 (Price €10)





This edition of the Irish Social Worker is dedicated to the late Monica Egan.

Monica took her place as an IASW Chair from 2000 to 2006, one of the longest terms as chair. She was the editor of the journal from 2006 to 2014. We are so thankful for her contributions to the Association.

Go Raibh Suaimhneas Síoraí Uirthi

CONTENTS INCLUDE:

Editorial by Majella Hickey	Page 6
Introduction by Vivian Geiran	Page 8
The First Fifty Years: A View from the Chair	Page 9
Moments from the Archives – The 1970s by John Brennan	Page 30
From Where I Sit Now	Page 32
Articles	
Social Workers in Adult Mental Health Special Interest Group (SWAMH), A Short History and Much to be Proud of by Frank Browne	Page 68
Social Work and Brain Injury Rehabilitation by Phil Butler	Page 77
Occupational Social Work in the Irish Defence Forces by Colin Fallon, Jill Davis, Majella Hickey, Grainne Murtagh and Sinead Twomey	Page 84
The Relationship Between Probation Practice and Social Work in Ireland: Time to Tie the Knot Once and for All? by Vivian Geiran	Page 95
Overcoming Silence: To Voice and Virtue in Social Work by Dr. Ann O'Loughlin	Page 113
Finding the Common Ground: Families, Relationships, and Child-Focused Practice in Foster Care by Dr. Maria Lotty	Page 128
The Transformation and Privatisation of Residential Child Care in Ireland by Justin O'Brien	Page 146
Making Sense of the Practice of Trauma-Informed Care: A Response to the Need to Implement Trauma Informed Care into Front-Line Practice by Dr. Maria Lotty	Page 160
The Push and Pull Factors of a Career in Social Work: What Drives Recruitment and Sustains Retention by Niamh Flanagan and Multiple Authors	Page 172
Evidence Based Social Work: A Showcase of Research from MSW Students at the Institute of Technology, Sligo by Dr Leigh-Ann Sweeney, Dr Susan Flynn, Sandra Finan, Kathryn Gannon, Jacqueline Gallagher, Lesley Golden, Cathy McCarthy, Brenda Feeney, Cheryl McMullin.	Page 186
Strengths and Affirmations: Practitioners Views of Disability and Child Protection Through an Affirmative Lens by Dr. Susan Flynn	Page 204
Reciprocal Relationships – Non-Violent Resistance and The IASW as Solidarity and Support Against Abusive and Violent Behaviour by Declan Coogan and Eileen Lauster	Page 214
'Intersectionality': An Indispensable Theory for Social Workers Promoting Social Justice in Ireland by Anna Birbeck and Stan Houston	Page 225
The 'Social' Can Really Work in Mental Health Social Work: a Critical Review of How the Understanding of Recovery has evolved and Converged Towards the Skillset of Social Work by Calvin Swords and Stan Houston	Page 234
Involving Service Users and Carers in Mental Health Research: The Use of Focus Groups to Inform a Housing Study of Inpatients in an Acute Mental Health Unit by John Cowman, Gavin Mulhall, Liam Breen, Aoife O'Callaghan, Brendan D. Kelly.	Page 246

Book Reviews

Hanged If You Do Reflections from a Career in Child Protection
reviewed by Majella Hickey Page 258

The Everyday Guide to Attachment, Play Connection and Emotional Release
reviewed by Majella Hickey Page 260

Ireland and the Magdalene Laundries: A Campaign for Justice
reviewed by Dr Fiachra Ó Súilleabháin Page 262

Young Refugees and Asylum Seekers: The Truth about Britain
reviewed by Máiréad Higgins and Gráinne Cowan Page 264

Why Theory Matters in Terms of Working with Children that have Been Sexually Exploited
reviewed by Aoife Gormally Page 268

Transference and Countertransference from an Attachment Perspective,
A Guide for Professional Caregivers reviewed by Aoife Breathnach Page 270

Is it Ethical? 101 Scenarios in Everyday Social Work Practice
reviewed by Fidelma Beirne Page 272

Crossing the Threshold: A Facilitators Guide to Running Developmental and
Support Groups reviewed by Dee McCarthy Page 274

Personal Struggles: Oppression, Healing, and Liberation reviewed by Marion Timmons Page 276

Obituaries

Monica Egan Page 278

Karen Kenny Page 281

Vivienne Darling Page 283

Therese (Terry) Meagher Page 285

IASW Journal Guidelines Page 287



I am Raising Amazing

It's the ordinary little moments
in the foster care journey
that show children just how
amazing they are.

#Tuslafostering
#RaisingAmazing



Freephone: 1800 226 771
E: tusla.fostering@tusla.ie
W: fostering.ie

TUSLA

An Ghníomhaireacht um
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach
Child and Family Agency



Dear Members

Welcome to the Irish Social Worker: Open Access Practice and Research Journal 2021. This special edition journal celebrates the 50th Anniversary of IASW.

Since 1971, twenty-one people have served as presidents / chairpersons of the IASW. Sadly, a number have passed away. To mark the 50th anniversary, former presidents and chairs contributed a short reflective piece entitled 'The first fifty years: a view from the Chair', highlighting the key moments and issues that arose for them during their time at the helm. In doing so, they have captured the story of the IASW.

The Irish Social Worker journal began as a Magazine in 1980 with Carmella Grant as its first Editor. To mark the 50th anniversary, former Editors selected a journal article which interested them, and which was published in their role as Editor. These reflective pieces are written through the lens of today with a focus on the changes the Editors have seen occur since the publication date.

This journal offers readers a depth of information which we hope will promote reflection, discussion, and debate amongst the membership.

Frank Browne presents a historical overview of the activities of the Adult Mental Health Special Interest group (SWAMH). He highlights its key achievements and the positive role it has played to mental health services, policy and legislation and in helping to build up the professional body of IASW.

Phil Butler explores the role of social work in an inpatient rehabilitation setting working with adults with acquired brain injury.

It is three decades since the Irish Social Worker featured an article on Occupational Social Work. Colin Fallon, Jill Davis, Majella Hickey, Grainne Murtagh and Sinead Twomey explore the journey of occupational social work in the Irish Defence Forces since its establishment in 1991.

Vivian Geiran provides a historical overview of probation practice in Ireland since its establishment over a century ago. The article highlights the various ways in which probation practice in Ireland has been connected with social work through its history.

Dr. Anne O'Loughlin provides a brief overview of Irish policy and legislative developments in Safeguarding Adults since the publication of the first article to address the topic of Elder Abuse in Ireland in the Irish Social Worker in 1990. The article highlights the challenge facing social workers in speaking up when confronted by the mistreatment, abuse, and neglect of adults in nursing home care, in particular the decision to remain silent.

Children in foster care have to navigate complex relational dynamics. Dr Maria Lotty and Sean

Trauma-informed Care is an approach that has gained momentum in front line social work practice. Maria Lotty describes the development of Trauma-informed Care as an approach to ameliorate trauma exposure. The article highlights barriers impeding the integration and progression of a trauma informed approach into front-line social work practice.

Master of Social Work students and lecturers involved in the Research Methods module at Maynooth University present an article on the findings from a recent research study on recruitment and retention of social workers in Ireland.

Using a pedagogic lens, students and lecturers from the Masters in Social Work course at the Institute of Technology Sligo, showcase five postgraduate research studies, illuminating the value of empirical reasoning and evidence based social work.

Dr. Susan Flynn presents a unique way of thinking about issues that relate to disability and child protection that is known as the affirmative model of disability. The article explains the approach and presents interview findings from a small sample of interviews with Irish social work practitioners and managers to substantiate its arguments.

Dr. Declan Coogan and Eileen Lauster explore the development of the Non-Violent Resistance (NVR) model in Ireland, while celebrating the key role played by the IASW. Using a case example, the authors highlight support and solidarity as key elements of NVR and reflect on the ways in which they experienced support and solidarity as members of the IASW.

Anna Birbeck and Dr Stan Houston explore the structural inequalities and discrimination that exist within Irish society. Armed with an intersectional awareness of the imbricated nature of oppression, they argue that social workers in Ireland can deepen their 'structural' empathy for excluded individuals and groups

and adopt a multi-dimensional form of advocacy to empower them.

Dr. Calvin Swords and Dr. Stan Houston explore the concept of recovery within Irish mental health services. They explore challenges in service culture and highlight the need for a philosophy which incorporates a social recovery perspective.

John Cowman Gavin Mulhall, Liam Breen, Aoife O'Callaghan, and Brendan D. Kelly present findings of a study of housing need aimed at maximising service user and carer feedback. The presence of a mental health service user in the core research group, informed revision of the methodology to better reflect the views and priorities of service users and carers in this work.

The Irish Social Worker journal appreciates the contribution of the authors who have shared their expertise and knowledge with us. On behalf of IASW, I would like to thank the authors, book reviewers and members who contributed articles, book reviews, obituaries, and photographs to this edition.

I would like to thank the editorial committee, Frank Browne, Sinead Twomey, Colletta Dalikeni and Steven Peet and our external panel of peer reviewers.

The Irish Social Worker journal would not be possible without the office support of Danielle McGoldrick and Sarah McDonnell. Their patience, hard work and support in compiling the journal is sincerely appreciated.

We look forward to the next edition and invite writers in social work, policy, practice, and research to consider submitting an article for publication.

Majella Hickey

Editor and Chair of the IASW Journal Committee

BOOK REVIEW: THE EVERYDAY GUIDE TO ATTACHMENT, PLAY CONNECTION AND EMOTIONAL RELEASE

Authors: Dr Lisa O'Reilly, Carol Duffy, Kathryn McCabe & Aoife Bairead **Year:** 2021

Publisher: Independently published **ISBN:** 9-798663-899192

The Everyday Guide to
Attachment, Play,
Connection and Emotional
Release:



For Parents, Foster Carers, Adoptive Parents and
Childcare Professionals

Dr Lisa O'Reilly

This is an electronic guidebook written by Dr Lisa O' Reilly with guest authors Carol Duffy, Kathryn Mc Cabe and Aoife Bairead.

Dr Lisa O' Reilly is a Child and Family specialist, with a background in child protection social work. She created this book during the Covid-19 pandemic to support foster carers, parents, and adoptive parents to build attachment and connection with children through attachment play. The book contains chapters on:

- What is Attachment
- How is Connection Different to Attachment
- Play and the Power of Play

- Attachment Play
- Following your Child's Lead in Play
- Power-Reversal Play
- Positive Discipline
- Rough and Tumble Play Time
- The Regressive Play Experience
- Helping Siblings to Get Along

The book offers theoretical knowledge, methods and practices for connecting with children. Utilising skills from child-led play therapy and professional and life experience, Dr. O' Reilly brings the reader through the process of tracking behaviour, reflecting and naming feelings and noticing effort and achievements. She highlights the importance of matching the child's tone and intensity by whispering reflections and mirroring behaviour and responding at a consistent rate that feels natural and comfortable in the moment of the child. The book is jam packed with knowledge and insights, play ideas and activities.

Chapter eleven is written by Carol Duffy, a Child and Adolescent Psychotherapist. Her chapter on 'Parenting with trauma', presents very useful insights into play psychotherapy and the central role of the caregiver within that process. She focuses on trauma induced behaviours, attachment drives, motivating, intervening and interrupting attachment cycles and relationship building. She introduces the reader to a trauma informed approach using sensory somatic play. The author provides really useful examples on how to how to break down a child's lived experiences so that they can understand them

for themselves. She provides creative examples for helping caregivers to connect playfully and meaningfully with children.

Chapter twelve, 'The Perfect Parent', is written by Social Ecologist, Kathryn McCabe. This is a beautiful chapter, full of practical tools that support the safe expression of aggression.

The chapter includes practical guidelines and themes for introducing rough play. She provides useful guidance and insights for home-schooling children.

Chapter thirteen, 'Caring for You while Caring for your Child', is presented by Aoife Bairead, Social Worker and Attachment and Trauma Informed

Therapist. Aoife covers the life changing experience of having a baby, early attachment cycle and stages of human development and the importance of self-care. The section on 'What shall we play', is broken down into age categories from 0-6 weeks to 12-18 months and is a wonderful resource for caregivers.

This guidebook serves as a wonderful resource book for caregivers and an insightful and invaluable resource for social work and childcare professionals.

Reviewed by Majella Hickey



IASU

Irish Association of Social Workers
Cumann na hÉireann um Oibríthe Sóisialta

Irish SOCIAL WORKER

SPRING 1994

Vol. 12 No. 1



WELCOME

contents

- EDITORIAL Page 3
- SPECIAL FEATURE ON MANAGEMENT ISSUES
Managing to Practice Child Protection: The Elements of a Child-Centred Approach by Harry Ferguson Page 4
- Workshop: Weighing in Social Work: Can we measure what we do and is it useful to know? by David Wilson Page 6
- Managing Child Protection Services in a Small Context by G.P. Donnelly Page 8
- Supervision in social work: what do we want? by Kieran McChaffin Page 10
- Therapeutic Interventions Page 11

Irish SOCIAL WORKER

Irish SOCIAL WORKER

WINTER 1993

Vol. 11 No. 5

contents

- EDITORIAL Page 3
- SPECIAL FEATURE ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Social Work & Human Rights by Ella Smith Page 4
- Social Work Intervention in a Refugee Camp by Rosalind Moore Page 6
- Home: The Campaign Experience by Mary Mac Dermada Page 8
- The Human Rights Commission: History of Background Page 9
- Secondary Admission to Psychiatric Hospitals by Vicki Sweeney Page 10
- International News by John Brennan Page 12
- Local News Page 14

Irish SOCIAL WORKER

IRISH SOCIAL WORKER



SHADOWS OF FEAR



SPECIAL ISSUE Social Work & Criminal Justice

Irish SOCIAL WORKER

Autumn/Winter 1996

contents

- EDITORIAL Introduction of 'Shadows of Fear' by Rosalind Moore Page 3
- Managing the Commission 'System' Page 4
- Juvenile Justice in the Republic: a case of child rearing in a 'system' facing to hand Page 6
- Working with Frank McCole: Power Links (NY) Page 12
- Pragmatics and methadone Page 14
- Between lives and death: the hidden counter-culture of methadone 'users' in Dublin Page 16
- Management of the new offender Page 18
- BOOK REVIEWS Page 20

• Helping Children • Health Services • Child Abuse Guidelines • Kellner Pringle Fellowships
• Child On Youth • Child Care Law Reform • IASU Notes • The International Network • Media Matters • Campaigns • Action on Poverty • Book Reviews • Conference: Towards • The Late Lane Show and Children