

**SOCIAL CARE ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND CLG**  
**MEETING OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**HELD AT SOCIAL CARE OFFICES, CHILDVISION, GRACE PARK ROAD, DUBLIN 9**

**ON THURSDAY, 9<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2019 AT 7PM**

**PRESENT:** David Durney (IASCM SIG) (DD) (*Chairperson*)  
Noel Howard (WAG) (NH)  
Kevin Lalor (IASCE) (KL)  
Caroline Cronly (IASCM SIG) (CC)  
Carlos Kelly (IASCM SIG) (CK)  
Paula Byrne (WAG) (PB)

**APOLOGIES:** Jim Walsh (IASCE) (JW)  
Leon Ledwidge (WAG) (LL)  
Suzanne Hannon – Secretary

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Charlotte Burke – CPD Coordinator  
Ronan Gallagher - L&P Trustee Services Limited as Company  
Secretary

**1. WELCOME, QUORUM AND APOLOGIES**

In accordance with Regulation 38.2 of the Constitution of the Company, DD chaired the meeting and declared that there was a quorum present.

Apologies were received from JW, LL and SH.

**2. DECLARATIONS OR CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations or conflicts of interest.

**3. OPENING ADDRESS**

The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their hard work throughout the year. He proceeded to provide an overview of the year's activities and progress. He highlighted the following matters:

- CB was thanked for her work throughout the year and there was an acknowledgement that it was a difficult role, when a charitable association was in its infancy and growing;
- The managers were thanked for their work and in particular for their garda vetting work, which is generating income for the association;
- There was a training grant received of €1,800 and it was still under consideration, how to best use the funds;
- The Association's Conference made a profit of €12k and there will be a proposal going to the board on what to do with the funds;

- The 2020 conference has been confirmed for Sligo;
- The ambition for the future is that the groups and SIGS would run the Association;
- FORSA had contacted the Association, which was a positive development. The ambition would be to partner with FORSA on projects that were mutually beneficial;
- The Chairperson had met with Rosario Mannion from the HSE who had offered to meet once a month;
- The qualifications required to be a social care worker. There was an in depth discussion on the topic;
- The chairperson is in communications with Michael Corcoran and that a meeting was imminent.

#### **4. TO APPOINT DIRECTORS IN PLACE OF THOSE RETIRING**

The chairperson confirmed that when the Association was first established that they decided to stagger the Terms of Office of the various directors so that when some of the directors were due to leave, they would still have directors on the board with experience thereby providing continuity of knowledge and expertise.

The chairperson further confirmed that there are currently three vacancies due to be filled on the board and for the purposes of the meeting today, they were only in a position to fill two of the three vacancies. He further confirmed that an EGM would be called in the coming weeks to finalise the appointment of the IASCE nominee.

Denise Lyons resigned from the board in December 2017 and the nominee to replace her is Helena Doody. On the proposal of DD, seconded by PB, Helena Doody was unanimously appointed as director.

CC's term of office had come to an end and the nominee to replace her was Toby Haslam Hopwood. On the proposal of DD, and seconded by NH, Tony Haslam Hopwood was unanimously appointed as director.

#### **5. TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2018 AND THE REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS AND AUDITORS THEREON**

Carlos Kelly, as Treasurer, outlined the background to the accounts. The accounts covered the period from December 2017 to December 2018.

The accounts were discussed vigorously amongst the directors and members and some significant areas of discussion were as follows:

- The accounts presented a loss for 2018 but they were on track to break even and have a minor reserve for 2019;
- A grant is received for CB's job as CPD Coordinator and also that they received a grant for courses;
- Garda Vetting income and that there are certain costs that come with the garda vetting in terms of paying individuals to carry out the process;
- €12,000 figure of admin costs for the conference. It was confirmed that the costs have been reviewed and that there is a hope that this can be reduced going

forward and it was noted that this was the first attempt at doing a conference and lessons had been learnt;

- A new software system for bookkeeping had been introduced- on the initiative of the finance committee- and the result was a streamlining of the maintenance of books and records and would allow for great transparency and accessibility for members and directors;
- There was a rigorous discussion around the breakdown of SIG funding.

## **6. TO REAPPOINT THE COMPANY'S AUDITORS AND TO AUTHORISE THE DIRECTORS TO DETERMINE THEIR REMUNERATION**

On a show of hands it was unanimously agreed to reappoint JP Grealy & Co as auditors and the Board were authorized to fix their remuneration.

There was a lengthy discussion in relation to putting the auditor's role out to tender. There was a query as to whether there was a legal obligation on the Association to put the role out to tender. It was agreed amongst the members and directors that there was no legal obligation as such, but it may be good governance to review the costs involved in the auditor's audit. It was agreed by the members and the board that the current costs of JP Grealy & Co were very reasonable and competitive in the current market.

## **7. Q&A AND CLOSING REMARKS**

### **CPD COORDINATOR REPORT**

CB presented a report to the members and the following was highlighted:

- The CPD Network funding;
- Reconfiguration of Working Groups/ SIG;
- Multiple member engagement in CPD for 2018;
- Industry trends for 2019;
- Engagement with and feedback from CORU on the Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics;
- Challenges in the regulation of Social Care Workers.

### **WORKING GROUPS/ SIGS 2018 REVIEW**

The chairperson invited the various representatives of the various working groups to address the meeting and provide an update on their work throughout the year. The WAG, IASCM SIG, CAMHS SIG and the Disability SIG all provided an overview of their activities for the year. The chairperson thanked the various representatives for their input and for the information and thanked them for their tireless work through the year.

### **SOCIAL CARE QUALIFICATIONS- TUSLA REQUIREMENTS**

As regards the Social Care qualifications standard set by TUSLA, it was confirmed that the initial decisions made by TUSLA were received via email after no consultation or consultation period.

The members and the board discussed what steps would be taken by the Association to make representation on the behalf of Social Care workers. It was agreed that the chairperson would contact Michael Corcoran of the HSE with a view to organise an urgent meeting.

**CODE OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT AND ETHICS**

There was a general discussion around the Code of Ethics for Social care workers and the members, and the directors were in agreement that this was a vital piece of governance and it was further confirmed that the Code of Ethics was on the SCI website.

The Chairperson thanked the board for all their hard work throughout the year and thanked all of the members for attending for their contributions both in the meeting and throughout the course of the year.

**8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business to discuss.

**9. DATE OF THE NEXT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING/CONFERENCE**

The date of the next AGM is to be scheduled and the members will be informed in due course.

There being no further business, the meeting then concluded.

**SIGNED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**CHAIRPERSON**

**DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_