

BASW NI promotes the social work profession. We achieve positive change by campaigning on behalf of our members, representing their interests to NI Executive Ministers, MLAs & policymakers.

Social Work Vacancies

There are 366 vacant social work posts in HSC. We have highlighted to the Minister for Health the need to: expedite recruitment, retain staff, establish normative staffing levels & caseload guidelines, and ensure enough social workers are trained to meet current and future demand.



Primary Care Multidisciplinary Teams

We have called on the Department for Health to provide funding to ensure the inclusion of social workers in primary care MDTs will not lead to gaps in existing services.



BASW NI has highlighted the vital need for a detailed analysis of the effectiveness of the initial MDT roll-out before the Department commits further resources to expand the initiative.

The Mental Capacity Act (NI) 2016

BASW NI has called for guidance regarding use of Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DOLs) in the context of end of life care & for the Department of Health to review the use of *emergency provisions* to discharge people from hospital.



We have also highlighted the need for streamlined paperwork & for role-specific training for all professionals involved with DOLs.

The number of Approved Social Workers (ASWs) is inadequate to safely implement this legislation, & as a first step, BASW NI has called for an audit of the number of ASWs.

Pay Parity

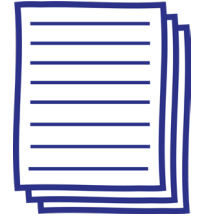
BASW NI wholeheartedly supported industrial action by trade unions which began in December 2019.



We have welcomed an assurance from the Minister for Health that social workers will be included alongside healthcare colleagues in the forthcoming pay deal.

Bureaucracy

Efficient delivery of social work services is encumbered by bureaucracy-heavy processes. BASW NI has urged the Minister for Health to establish a task force to remove unnecessary paperwork, implement IT solutions & increase the number of administrative staff available for supporting social workers.



Violence Against Social Workers

In response to BASW NI's 2018 Insult & Injury report, which highlighted deeply worrying levels of violence & abuse directed at social workers, the Department of Health established a Task Force to address the issue. The Department must now publish, as a priority, its employer guidance framework, to protect HSC social workers & social care staff.



Welfare Reform

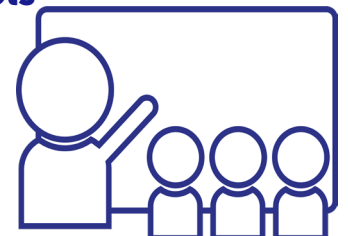
As a member of the Cliff Edge Coalition NI we have successfully campaigned for the extension of the Bedroom Tax mitigation.

BASW NI continues to campaign for removal of the Universal Credit two-child limit in NI & for legislative change to eliminate legal risks to social workers associated with verifying Universal Credit claims under the "rape clause" exemption.



Restraint & seclusion of children & young people in schools

BASW NI supports the call for mandatory training for all staff working directly with children & young people with additional needs. We recommend interventions should be therapeutic in outcome & focus on positive behaviour support strategies, with restraint & seclusion used only as a last resort option.



BASW NI would also support the introduction of mandatory recording & reporting of all incidents of restrictive practice and seclusion.