

Expression of Interest in Appointments of External and Internal Representatives of IFSW Europe e.V.

Name: Dr Jane Shears

Member Organisation: British Association of Social Work.

E-Mail address: janeshears15@gmail.com

Please indicate the position(s) you are interested and the capacity in which you would wish to serve:

Please  as appropriate

Position	Representative	Support Member
Council of Europe	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Global HR Commission	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Global Expert Group Ethics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
European Social Platform	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
EAPN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ENS4Care Project	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
EU Fundamental Rights Platform	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please give a brief account of knowledge and experience you have relevant to the position(s) below

I began my social work career in child protection which has particular ethical challenges within the system of the family and wider civil society. I have also worked with older people and asylum seekers, but the majority of my time has been in the field of mental health. In each work setting there are profound and fundamental issues of ethical practice. The tensions between safety and service user self-determination happen on a daily basis and social work recognises there may be conflict between the two positions. However, social work has an integral role in balancing the principles of human rights and dignity to achieve social justice. Between 1994 and 1998 I worked on a range of EU funded projects to promote the empowerment of mental health service users across central and eastern Europe who were experiencing disadvantage and discrimination in their own countries.

In the UK I work as a duty social worker in mental health and a Best Interest Assessor for people who are deprived of their liberty, mainly in care homes. I also manage a team of 68 social workers at a large NGO. This NGO provides services to people with diverse needs and includes secure units as well as community care. The social worker is a key member of a multi-disciplinary team and often will advocate for service user's rights. For example, I have challenged medical models of practice and advocated for the promotion of least restrictive practices, and have ensured that each service user (who wants one) has an Advanced Statement setting out how they would like services to provide care. I have a key role in implementing best practice based on the values of social work and am co-authoring the national standards for safeguarding training across disciplines. My doctoral research studied community mental health services from a service user perspective, using participant action

research as the methodological framework. I actively work with service users and am currently a module lead for an e-learning Masters course in Mental Health Recovery and Social Inclusion at the University of Hertfordshire.

For the past 3 years, I have been the IFSWe representative on the global group looking at the revisions of the Statement of Ethical Principles. We have reached a position of now having a complete final draft with the intention to launch the new statement at the IFSW global conference in July 2018. I would very much welcome the opportunity to complete this work. I respectfully request my application to do so is considered at the IFSWe delegates meeting in May 2018.

Current Employment Status: I am employed as a mental health social worker for Northamptonshire County Council. I am Head of Social Work at a large NGO, St Andrew's Healthcare. I am also a module lead and a tutor for an MSc in Social Inclusion and Recovery with the University of Hertfordshire.

Length of Time Position held: Over 20 years

Do you have the support of your employer to attend meetings? Yes

Will you be allowed time off work to attend meetings? Yes

Do you have the support of your Membership Organisation? Yes

How much of your own time are you able to devote to the position(s)? Up to one day a week

Please indicate the level of your skills in both spoken and written English and in any other languages using the codes below:

Fluent (1); Very good (2); Good (3); Fairly good (4)

Language	Spoken	Written
English	1	1
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Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.
Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.

Please indicate the level of your IT skills using the codes below:

Excellent (1); Very good (2); Good (3); Fairly good (4)

E-Mail	1
Word	1
Excel	3
Power point	1