

Jackie Irvine becomes President



Jackie Irvine became the new President. Jackie will serve as President for the next 12 months and will be spokesperson and ambassador for social work leadership. Also elected was Kathryn Lindsay of Angus Council to be Vice President. Whilst Lillian Cringles from Dumfries and Galloway and Jane Martin from Dundee City Council will continue as co-chairs of the Justice Committee and Joanna MacDonald of NHS Highland will continue to chair the Adult and Social Care Committee

Committee Chairs



Jane Martin



Joanna MacDonald



Lillian Cringles

Getting to know the President:

- ***Why did you become a social worker?***

“– for many reasons; probably because I experienced some adversity in my lifetime and I knew that some people are not as fortunate in terms of resilience and supports available to them. I needed to do something interesting and something which had the potential to make a difference.”

- ***What does Social work mean to you?***

“It means many things- especially when we think of how far we have come since the 1968 Social Work (Scotland) Act – the changing policy landscape has always provided an excellent opportunity for the social workers who do the front line job to influence and shape policy –

knowing what is needed from a grass roots perspective.”

- ***What do you want to achieve in your year in office?***

“I would like to ensure that as a professional organisation body we are able to help front line staff influence policy and maintain our values when working with partners influence that front line staff have to offer in respect of policy and ‘what next’ and to ensure that we maintain a focus on our value base within social work and in collaborative work.”

- ***How can members become more involved in SWS?***

“SWS can assist members in a number of ways and needs to raise further awareness of the organisation and our commitments – we need to hear more from front line social workers – and this will be better facilitated with our new web site as a means of improving communication.”

- ***One final question for you to answer. What are the opportunities and challenges of being a social worker at the moment?***

“There are many challenges that I hear about from the staff and managers in my area as well as across Scotland; rising demand for services and supports, increasing complexity and competing demands and reducing resources. The opportunities that come from this mean we have to think differently about how we provide support, we need to be innovative and be clear about partnership commitments in meeting these demands.”

Getting to know the Vice President

Kathryn Lindsay



Why did you become a social worker?

A lifelong personal commitment to justice, fairness and equity lie behind my decision to become a social worker.

What are the Challenges facing social work?

A challenge facing social work in this increasingly diverse and complex delivery context is that of identity. But this is also one of the greatest opportunities to champion social work values from within these systems and promote fairness, equity and justice for those that find it hardest to have their voices heard.