

Regional Emergency Social Work Service (RESWS)

A new regional out of hours social work service will commence at 5pm on Wednesday 29 May 2013.

This service will be available to the population of Northern Ireland and will replace all existing local arrangements. This is an emergency service to be used only when you need a social worker urgently, after hours.

The RESWS will provide an emergency response across the five Health and Social Care trust areas in Northern Ireland on an out of hour's basis i.e. from 5pm-9am weekdays and on a 24 hour basis at weekends and bank holidays.

Emergency Remit

This is an Emergency Service and is not an extension of day services.

The RESWS will provide services for the following social care groups:

- Children and young people
- Older people
- People with mental health problems
- People with learning difficulties
- People with physical disabilities
- Families and carers of all these groups

The service is also responsible for emergency homelessness for the NIHE and emergency financial issues for the SSA outside normal working hours.

Child Care

RESWS will accept referrals where:

- There are concerns that a child has suffered, or is likely to suffer significant harm.
- There are concerns in relation to children who are Looked After by a health and social care trust or their carers including foster carers.
- There is suspected or confirmed abuse of a child.
- In cases where there is a serious and imminent risk of family breakdown both in the community, foster care or kinship placements.
- Act as an appropriate adult for young people who are subject of a care order.
- Where there is a need for authorised professionals to make an enquiry to the Child Protection Register

Mental Health / Learning Disability

RESWS will accept referrals where:

- Compulsory admission to hospital under the Mental Health (NI) Order 1986 is required; the Regional Emergency Social Work Service will provide an Approved Social Worker to undertake a joint assessment with the GP.
- Families and carers have serious and immediate concerns in relation to an adult's safety.
- There are difficulties surrounding the care and safety of a person subject to Guardianship

Older People / Physical Disability

RESWS will accept referrals where:

- Informal care arrangements have broken down and it is essential that immediate action is taken to secure the health and wellbeing of a service user.
- Extensive attempts by the Domiciliary Services to locate a service user have proved unsuccessful, and there is a necessity to liaise with PSNI regarding further action required.
- There are concerns about the safety of a vulnerable adult.
- Admission to Residential/Nursing Home is required

Access for public and professionals is via single telephone number

028 9504 9999

Professionals can also complete written alerts on known cases and e-mail to:

resws1@belfasttrust.hscni.net