

# Special Interest Group in Paediatric Psychology (SIGPeP)

## Constitution of the Special Interest Group for Paediatric Psychology

### The Vision of the SIGPeP

The vision of the Special Interest Group for Paediatric Psychology (SIGPeP) is to foster the theoretical, applied and professional development of Paediatric Psychology in Ireland. It is concerned with the promotion of professional practice, clinical governance, research and training for psychologists in Paediatric and Community Settings.

### Definition of Paediatric Psychology

Paediatric Psychology is a field of research and practice that has been concerned with a wide variety of topics in the relationship between the psychological and physical well-being of children, including behavioural and emotional concomitants of disease and illness, the role of psychology in paediatric medicine, and the promotion of health and prevention of illness among healthy children.

### The mission of the SIGPeP

The mission of the SIGPeP will be realised through the organisation of talks, workshops and symposia, with international and interdisciplinary cooperation. The SIGPeP will liaise with universities in order to promote research opportunities and to promote evidence-based practice. The SIGPeP will also endeavour to disseminate accurate and evidence-based information to psychologists, medical professionals, allied health professionals, and the general public to promote psychological wellbeing for paediatric patients and their families.

### Aims and Objectives

1. To provide opportunities for training and professional development in the area of Paediatric Psychology.
2. To promote research and evidence-based practice in Paediatric Settings.
3. To provide forums for discussion, information sharing, and professional support.
4. To provide informed advice to the PSI and other bodies on matters related to psychological practice within this specialist area.
5. To promote the field of Paediatric Psychology within Psychology, at a service and organisational level, and at a broader societal level.
6. To promote collaboration between paediatric and community services through the establishment of a support network.

### **Membership and Membership Criteria**

Psychologists working clinically or conducting research with paediatric populations, or those with a special interest in paediatric psychology, will be invited to become members and to participate in the activities of the SIGPeP. Eligibility criteria for membership of the SIGPeP are determined by the Articles of Association of the PSI.

Individuals are considered either full members, student members, or affiliate members:

1. Full members shall include all individuals who are full members of the PSI.
2. Student members shall include all student members of the PSI.
3. Affiliate members shall include all those individuals who are not eligible for membership of the PSI but who are working in a related area of interest relevant to the SIGPeP (e.g. Paediatricians, Paediatric Nurses, Dieticians, Physiotherapists, etc.)

### **Rules of the SIG**

Meetings will be held on a monthly basis. It is envisaged that online interactions, meetings and emails will be a particularly common mode of communication and operation.

A quorum of 6 will be needed in order for the meeting to take place.

### **Subscriptions**

There will be no subscription fee for student subscribers and Registered/Graduate members. Affiliate members will be required to pay a subscription fee in line with PSI policy.

### **Management and Governance Structure**

#### *The Task of the SIGPeP Executive Committee:*

1. Establish and maintain the vision (what the group wants to achieve), the mission (what needs to be done in order to realise the vision) and values (principles, standards of conduct, governance) of the SIGPeP.
2. Review and determine the strategy and the structure of the SIGPeP every two years.
3. Delegate authority to committee members, and monitor and evaluate the implementation of policies, strategies, and business plans.
4. Account to group members and PSI and be responsive to stake holders.

#### *Executive Committee Members*

The SIGPeP executive committee will comprise of at least 12 members. This committee will have a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, Research Officer, Policy Development Officer, Student Officer, Membership Officer, Treasurer, Communications and Public Relations Officer, and at least three Ordinary Committee Members. Further roles may be established as the committee sees fit. People outside of the committee may be co-opted into the committee, with a maximum of two individuals at any one time.

### Sub-Committees

Sub committees or working groups will be convened as needed through the lifetime of the SIGPeP.

### Resignation and Terms of Office

The Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, Policy Development Officer, Research Officer, and Treasurer will be elected for a term of two years at an annual general meeting. Any member of the SIG can be elected for any role onto the committee, pending approval and available space on the committee, for a minimum term of 12 months. New committee members can be elected annually. Committee members will be elected at the AGM and endorsed by at least two other members from the SIGPeP. All committee members will serve a minimum of 12 months and a maximum of four consecutive years on the executive committee.