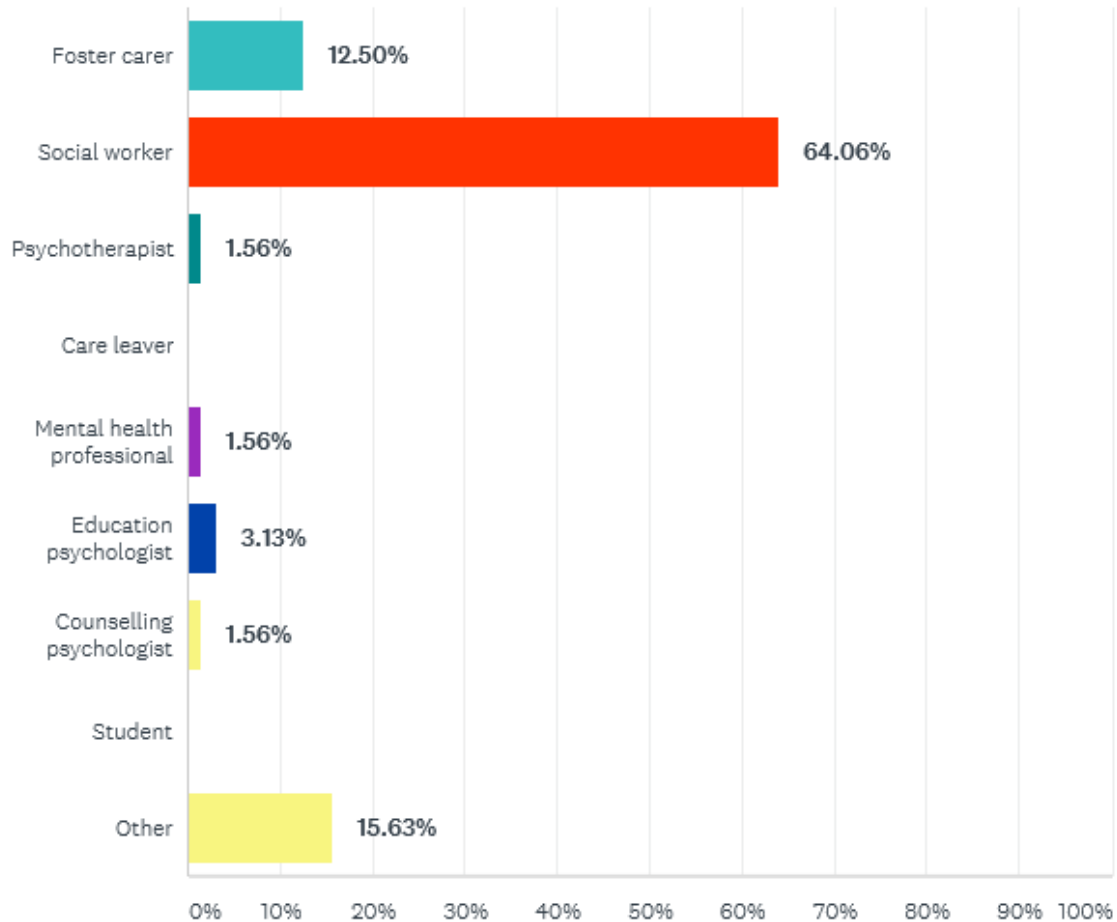


# IAIA Conference 2017 Feedback



Irish Attachment in Action's inaugural conference took place on May 5, 2017. From the onset, interest in the event was very evident and it took place with full attendance. Over one hundred individuals were present on the day with a variety of backgrounds and professions represented. Evaluation forms were provided and the feedback has now been collated. We are very grateful that such a high number of attendees took the time to complete them and send them back to us in order to assist us in developing further as an organisation.

## Attendees by Occupation



The majority of those present were from the social work profession, with significant volumes of foster carers and mental health professionals also attending. Of those who stated “other”, these were a mixture of representatives from educational backgrounds, including special needs assistants, teachers, school principals and coordinators. In future events, we would like to see a broader cross section of backgrounds and will endeavour to ensure that such events would be publicised in advance to a wide list of possible attendees. We will also work to make our next offerings accessible to students.



In aggregate, an average of 58% of those who responded rated the workshops as excellent. A further average of 32% rated them as very good. Individual feedback has been provided to all delegates.

We asked a number of key questions to give us an overview of where we were successful in our event, and also what can be improved upon. We have provided a few comments to illustrate the type of feedback received:

### *What aspects of the conference worked well for you?*

- “Presentations were excellent and well balanced in terms of theory and practice.”
- “All of it. It was really well presented and facilitated. It was inspired and energising.”
- “Networking was also a vital component of the conference.”
- “The focus on networking. The idea of working together to change.”
- “I liked every presentation and timings worked well. Location was easy to get to and parking cost was good.”
- “The enthusiasm of IAIA committee and presenters was infectious. Good opportunity for networking. Great variety in the presentations.”
- “Excellent presentations, up beat atmosphere, practical information and facts.”



- “especially good in the open discussion parts to hear everyone else's views and stories.”
- “The organisation was great for a new organisation with little lead in life. Well done to the group.”
- “Fantastic speakers. Content was excellent. Interactive and interesting day. Well organised and much needed!! Great opportunity for cross border networking also.”

### *What do you think could have been better?*

- “Room was far too warm at times and sound was poor at times”
- “The sound level fluctuated - noisy air conditioning .”
- “More coping mechanisms for people in contact with these children.”
- “The screen was too bright and hard to read, especially when the background was dark.”
- “Perhaps going out of room in groups (assigned by facilitator) to talk about discussion points.”

We also received a considerable amount of comments relating to the timing of Christina Enright’s presentation, with many requesting the opportunity to attend a further presentation in the future. IAIA will look at providing such an event in the future months.

## What key messages will you take away from the conference?

“Start with where the people are at not the theory. Wonderful people working in the field - really need to lobby governments and to work together.”

“This organisation (IAIA) is so necessary.”

“The need for collaborations for those working with children in care to ensure attachment issues are addressed holistically.”

“Hope.”

“Hope - Always hope in every situation.”

“Hope for this work we do and the potential for investing in all. Hope for the future and getting the message of attachment out there.”

“The importance of practitioners' and teachers' understanding of the meaning of traumatised/neglected children's behaviour and needs. The need to provide relationship based support to foster carers.”

“Education - nurture units - how do we educate our schools and get resources for our children in school. Tailored individual support plans.”



“There is a lot of information and groups out there and the IAIA will be a good forum to bring them together and share best practice.”

## Other comments

- “I would look forward to having more seminars units/cases specific to attachment to discuss.”
- “Delighted to see so many social workers present.”
- “This was a great success, hopefully the first of many.”
- “A brilliant inaugural conference, well done to the organising committee.”
- “Aside from the charitable and voluntary organisations being involved in this the state care institutions need to walk the walk and not just talk the talk.”
- “Very enjoyable, looking forward to future conferences - practical expert speakers.”
- “The talk on Hope was inspirational and infectious! Would love to do the course as an adult! “
- “Great range of expertise and personality. You're a great and inspirational group.”
- “I would love to see IAIA organise professional learning here in Ireland such as DDP so we don't have to travel to U.K.”.



**IAIA** are very pleased with the high level of positive feedback received. In the instances where suggestions for improvements have been made, we will take note and work to ensure these changes are made. We look forward to meeting with all participants again and to making new connections at future events. We would like to specifically note the frequency with which the word “Hope” was used in all sections of the evaluations. This is promising and inspiring in itself and we wholeheartedly agree that this is a great place to start – and we are honoured to have begun the journey with so many likeminded people.

We are committed to promoting better experiences of attachment to enhance our relationships between ourselves, our children and our society.

Find us on

<http://www.iaia.ie/>

Email: [info@iaia.ie](mailto:info@iaia.ie)

[@iaia.matters](https://www.facebook.com/iaia.matters)

<https://twitter.com/IrishAttachment>

The banner features a large, stylized 'iaia' logo in green and black, with the words 'Irish Attachment In Action' written below it. The background of the banner is a photograph of a stone fort on a hill, with a sunset or sunrise in the sky.