



CRITICAL INCIDENT STRESS MANAGEMENT

NETWORK IRELAND

CONSTITUTION

(Adopted at AGM 3rd November 2011)

Constitution

1. Title

The Group shall be known as the **CRITICAL INCIDENT STRESS MANAGEMENT NETWORK IRELAND**. The address of the membership secretary will be nominated as the address of the Network for correspondence.

2. Definition

Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) is a comprehensive integrated multi-component crisis intervention system, designed to prevent and/or monitor the impact of (or mitigate) the adverse psychological reactions which may result from exposure to critical incidents that are experienced by emergency services personnel (e.g. the Ambulance, Fire service, Gardai/ Police Officers, Military) as well as other personnel who may encounter stressful situations not normally experienced by the general public.

3. Aims and objectives

The Network provides a forum for the promotion and exchange of best practice information on CISM and information on standards, availability and provision of training for CISM.

3.1 Objectives

The key objectives of the Network are as follows:

- to promote awareness of, education in, and research on, Critical Incident Stress Management in Ireland;
- to make information on the subject available;
- to provide a forum for co-ordinating activities and to support work of those individuals and organisations who are working in the field;
- to monitor and appraise international practice in CISM;
- to develop capacity for Critical Incident Stress Management, including education and training;
- to liaise with and to influence appropriate individuals/ bodies in support of these objectives;
- to run the organisation on a not-for-profit basis.

4. Membership

Membership shall be open to individuals and organisations who support the aims, objectives, and ethos of the Network. Rules governing membership and categories of membership shall be determined by the National Steering Committee.

A register of members will be kept.

5. National Steering Committee

A National Steering Committee (NSC) will be established and will meet at least twice per year. The method of appointment will be, in the case of organisations listed at 6.2 below shall be nomination of the parent organisation, and in the case of individual members shall be election at AGM.

6. Membership of National Steering Committee

6.1 The membership of the NSC shall comprise a minimum of 12 members, with power to co-opt additional members where appropriate, to a maximum of 30 members.

6.2 Membership of the NSC should reflect the inter-agency nature of the Network, both voluntary and statutory. Members should also be from a range of backgrounds/professions. The following organisations will be represented on the NSC (subject to annual membership payment):

- Civil Defence
- Defence Forces
- Dublin Fire Brigade
- Garda Síochána
- Health Service Executive (NAS CISM Committee)
- Irish Aviation Authority
- Irish Coast Guard
- Irish Prison Service
- Irish Red Cross
- National University of Ireland Maynooth (Department of Psychology)
- Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service
- Order of Malta
- Police Service of Northern Ireland
- Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council

Representatives of other statutory and voluntary bodies may be co-opted where it is deemed appropriate by the NSC.

There will be a minimum of one representative seat on the NSC for each of the following groups: voluntary organisations (including charities); associate corporate members; and individual members.

The NSC shall have a minimum of six officers, comprising the Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Public Relations Officer, and Research and Education Officer. Other necessary officer positions may be created as and when required. The following four officers will be elected at the AGM, following nomination, for a period of two years: Chair; Vice-Chair; Treasurer; and Public Relations Officer. The other two officer positions, Secretary and Research and Education Officer, are to be appointed by the NSC.

6.3 The NSC will draw up its own rules and standing orders, which should be put before the Network for approval. Business will be conducted in accordance with the rules and standing orders.

The NSC shall have the power to appoint such sub-committees as it shall from time to time deem necessary.

6.4 There shall be a quorum of 7 for meetings of the NSC, the A.G.M. and for any E.G.M.

7. Network Base and Administrative Support

The location and support structure of the Network will be detailed in the Network Standing Orders Document.

8. Affiliation to Bodies

The Network may affiliate to such bodies, national and International, as are approved by the NSC.

9. Finances and Resources

The NSC shall have power to:

- set a levy for membership;
- charge for any services or products provided;
- raise funds from appropriate sources;
- disburse funds and resources in accordance with its own decision-making and approval arrangements, provided it remains solvent.

Any expenditure must be approved by the Treasurer and one other nominated officer. The Treasurer will present a statement of accounts at the AGM.

10. Termination of CISM Network Ireland

CISM Network Ireland shall be terminated only on the vote of the membership at the Annual General Meeting or at an Extraordinary General Meeting. In the event of the termination of the CISM Network Ireland, the assets shall be disbursed in a manner to be determined by the NSC at the time.

11. Adoption of Constitution and Changes Thereto

The Constitution may be changed by resolution at the Annual General Meeting, or an Extraordinary General Meeting convened for that purpose, by a vote of two-thirds of the membership who are in attendance. A weighted voting system may be used where necessary (this system is detailed further in the Network Standing Orders Document).

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