



DEVELOPING TOGETHER

SOCIAL WORK TEACHING PARTNERSHIP



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| Covid 19 - Celebrating Social Work Practice | Issue 3 | Date: 26.6.20 |

Dear reader,

Welcome to the third edition of our celebration of social work practice during the COVID-19 pandemic. We hope you find the good news stories uplifting and the resources helpful.

We also take this opportunity to express our sadness at the death of George Floyd. As a Partnership, we condemn the inequality and institutional racism that has led to these circumstances and are committed to listening and acting now and in the future. We have included a selection of articles, videos and other resources relevant to the Black Lives Matter movement in this edition as well as an official statement from our Teaching Partnership and respective partner agencies. We also publish details of new discussion groups that have been set up to facilitate ongoing constructive conversations.

Best wishes,

Libbi, Sue, Josie and Sarah



Examples of Excellent Practice

Kingston Adult Social Care has shared a wonderful example from Fiona of 'going out of your way practice':

It was 28.5.20 and I was on annual leave. My partner phoned me to say a gentleman had approached him asking him how to get to Woking. He appeared confused and lost. He wanted to walk to Woking which was approximately 18 miles from where he was.

He was down the road from my house so I went to find him. The gentleman was insistent that he needed to get to Woking as he lived there with his brother. He was unable to give an address in Woking and had no phone. He said he had come from New Malden, approximately 3 miles away.

I suggested he came to my house to get a drink and to try to find out more information but he declined. I called the police, but as I didn't want to scare the gentleman I did not tell him. Instead I followed him for approximately 20 minutes until the Community policeman arrived. Between us talking to him, he agreed to come to my house for a glass of water (it was a very hot day).

I rang my manager to obtain consent to look him up on our system, however he was not known to us. The police were able to locate his son who he lives with in New Malden, who then came to my house to collect him.

Sutton Children has shared this excellent case study of practice during COVID-19, which demonstrates how innovative and community-focused work can come out of the most challenging of situations:

Integrated Youth Services

Background

As part of statutory YOT work, young people need to complete reparation hours. If young people don't complete this then they are at risk of being in breach of their order and needing to return to court. Therefore there was a risk that if we didn't set something up the YJB (Youth Justice Board) wouldn't be impressed and we risked the young person not being able to complete their order.

Risk/Impact of COVID-19

COVID 19 had meant that the set up one to one and group work was no longer possible and we needed to think of flexible and creative ways to enable the young people to complete their hours.

Keeley also wanted to give back to the community and think of something poignant that would make the young people feel they are doing something meaningful and allow them to be proud of their work.

Actions taken to address risk

- Young people will complete their community reparation hours from home making face shields for Care Homes across the Sutton borough.
- Keeley worked with colleagues in the NHS and care homes to understand their immediate needs around PPE and exactly what was needed.
- All young people will receive a box of the equipment and then attend an online session via Whatsapp in order to assemble the masks, receiving step-by-step visual instructions.
- All masks, once completed will be disinfected and individually wrapped, with a thoughtful tag that states the masks were made by young people, thanking the key worker for their work and asking for photos of recipients using the shields at work.
- The masks are durable and reusable; every part of the shield can be disassembled and washed. - great for the environment and for longevity purposes.

Achievements

- We have now delivered the first batch of completed face shields
- Not only did young people get to complete their reparation hours, but they did something truly valuable to their community.
- Keeley turned this around from an idea to reality within a week and was incredible around sourcing all the materials needed and putting together a booklet.
- Local nursing homes benefited by getting their much needed PPE and they felt safer delivering their crucial job to look after our elderly vulnerable residents.



Merton Adults has shared an email from a client of one of their Occupational Therapists. Claire Migale, PSW, said 'I think this particularly highlights not only the great work my OTs are doing but also the success of virtual video interviews at this time'

Dear xxx,

Thank you, for your video call today. X loves the Bath lift... I made her go up and down a few times, she did not want to get off it. She kept on saying why we did not get her this lift before.

Fewer screams with pain as it's so better than before to get in and out of the bath. Seeing her excitement we decided to fill the tub and let her enjoy the soak and when she was done it was a breeze to rinse her and get her out than before. It's so much better for her sister and myself as its no strain on our bodies to get her in and out.

She kept on saying she likes it. We just wish if there was a bath panel with a door so that she would go through no pain at all other than she continuously experiences. But I guess to install that the whole bathroom would need to be custom made and done again and we understand that is a very costly solution.

We just pray that she does not get any worse than she already is.

We are so grateful for your help.

Thank you once again

*Kind regards,
XXX*



Fay from Welcare has shared a great blog with us about their good practices during lockdown:

For many the focus is on dealing with isolation as families can no longer rely on their established support networks like family or friends and relationships have become much more strained, not just between partners but also between parents and children. This is especially hard where children have additional needs and accommodation is overcrowded, often with no garden.

Many aspects of our role are still the same. We spend time talking to other professionals including schools and social workers. I am having to be very creative, thinking of new strategies to help with issues or behaviours and adapting resources to the current situation. Keeping in touch via telephone calls, social media or video calling has helped us to keep supporting families and continue with focused work such as parenting.

As well as helping families to adapt to the impact on relationships, maintaining routines and structure through to parenting Techniques, families have adapted and engaged well with using technology (especially the children and young people!). We have created the idea of superheroes using the metaphors of capes and superheroes characters to encourage children to thrive, to care and to inspire others and to recognise their own individual strengths and talents, and so become superheroes themselves. A very useful resource in these challenging times. Another strategy to help children is Survival Boxes. These contain items and activities that whole families can do together. You can find out more about these [here](#).

Families have also shared positive stories and outcomes. They talk about being able to spend time with their children in a way they have never been able to do before. They have been able to try out new activities and enjoy special times as a family. As well as regularly talking to families and other professionals, we are now attending virtual meetings such as Child Protection Conferences and Team around the Child meetings.

Thanks to the kindness of others, being able to provide families with supermarket shopping vouchers has been such an important part of the practical support. They have reported what a big difference this has made to them as they juggle with budgeting and managing changes in finances.

Through our engagement with schools and listening to their needs and changing priorities, we have developed an online group starting soon with parents of Primary school children to help support them to manage any anxieties they or their children may have during the transition of returning to school. This group will be a space for parents and carers to discuss their anxieties and hopes while exploring the positive benefits and advantages of going back to school.

Finally, having a social work student on placement during lockdown, has also enabled us as an organisation to be creative in our use of media platforms. Case studies, virtual role play and virtual student observations were vital in supporting the student and trainee PE to meet learning needs and allow final reports to be written.



**Black
Lives
Matter**



A statement of solidarity following the death of George Floyd:

Like you, we were saddened to learn of the death of George Floyd and witness the subsequent shocking events in the USA. Understandably, this has caused anger and distress around the world.

We are encouraged by the voice of the nation and the people around the world holding peaceful protests to ensure that the voices of black, asian and minority ethnic (BAME) communities are heard. These protests demonstrate that the need for change is being supported on a truly global scale.

These events have highlighted to the world the injustice and racism that persist in today's society, both covertly and overtly, and as a Partnership we condemn the inequality and institutional racism that has led to these circumstances.

As social work professionals, tackling inequality is at the heart of what we do, and our Partnership has a responsibility to learn from each other's strengths and shortcomings in order to develop a more fair and just society for those we serve.

It is up to us, by committing to listening and acting, to work to address disadvantage and prejudice in all its forms - we pledge to do better.

Black Lives Matter



Please find below some links to our partner agencies' responses to the death of George Floyd:

[Kingston University](#)

[Croydon](#)

[Kingston](#)

[Merton](#)

[Sutton](#)

[Richmond](#)

BLM and the Voice of Social Work - Discussion Groups



A number of our partner agencies have announced the practical actions they will be taking to address the role that they and the social work profession must play in addressing the injustice and racism that led to the death of George Floyd.

In addition, the Teaching Partnership Team will be facilitating Discussion Groups - BLM and the Voice of Social Work. We have identified the first area for discussion which will be Unconscious Bias. An article or piece of research will be shared in advance of each session and the session will be an opportunity to discuss this as a group. The group will also be the forum for deciding what discussion areas will be the focus for subsequent sessions. For Unconscious Bias, there are 2 date options to choose from:

23.7.20 2-3pm Click [here](#) to book

29.7.20 2-3pm Click [here](#) to book

We recognise that as a team of white women we are limited in many ways in terms of our experiences and perspectives and, as such, we will be co-facilitating the sessions with black colleagues from the Teaching Partnership.

If you have any queries about the Discussion Groups, please contact josie.newton@developingtogetherswtp.org.uk or sarah.cave@developingtogetherswtp.org.uk

Black Lives Matter: Resources



[Video](#) - Systemic racism explained

[Community Care Article](#) - Black Lives Matter: social work must respond with action – not platitudes

[DHSC Blog](#) - Black Lives Matter in the UK too but where is the voice of social work?

[DHSC Blog](#) - Lightbulbs, leadership and being true to yourself

[BASW Statement](#) - George Floyd

[Principal Children and Families Social Worker Network Statement](#) - Black Lives Matter

[Adults Principal Social Worker Network Statement](#) - Black Lives Matter

[Social Work England Statement](#) - We stand against racism and oppression in all its forms – black lives matter

[Chief Social Worker Joint Statement](#) - Black lives matter...to our communities and our profession

[BASW Article](#) - We spend all our time 'fitting in', but now it's time to speak out against racism

[BASW Article](#) - 'As BAME leaders and social workers we must all speak out against racism'

[Video](#) - Mental Health Act review - Colin's story

[Resource Library](#) - The NSPCC Library and Information Service has created a reading list showcasing resources from the library collection on child protection and race.

[Black & Ethnic Minority Professionals Symposium \(BPS\)](#) - A BASW facilitated, informal online space for black and ethnic minority social workers (15 places max). Involvement will contribute towards your social work registration continuous professional development (CPD) hours.

[A call out to Black & Ethnic Minority social workers for essays, stories & poems](#) - BASW England and Kirwin Maclean Associates are collaborating to develop an anthology of Black and ethnic minority workers' experiences. Contributions can be in the form of essays, stories and poems and the format will be similar to the books



Social Work IS Political!

"Social workers should engage in social and political action that seeks to ensure that all people have equal access to the resources, employment, services, and opportunities they require to meet their basic human needs and to develop fully... Social workers should act to prevent and eliminate domination of, exploitation of, and discrimination against any person, group, or class on the basis of race, ethnicity..." NASW Code of Ethics, Section 6

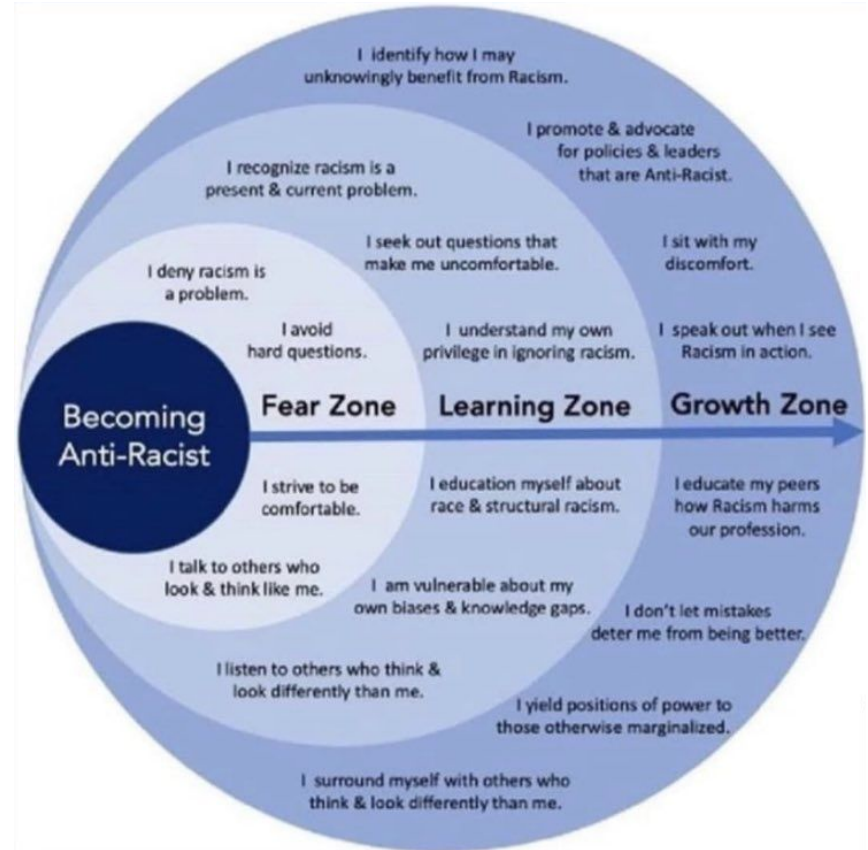


Image courtesy of Karen Treisman



COVID-19: Useful Resources

Resources for social work students and professionals



General:

[Social Work 2020 under Covid-19 Magazine](#) - This is a free online magazine which will be produced during the Covid-19 crisis, edited by an editorial collective, about issues that are of interest to those who use social work or social care services, those who provide them and those who undertake teaching or research around them. This 4th edition editorial was released on 2.6.2020.

[Podcasts](#) - Community Care has released a series of podcast episodes to support social workers during the coronavirus crisis. Topics covered include: The Coronavirus Act and the Care Act easements; loneliness and isolation; self care; and domestic abuse.

[Guidance](#) - Taking trauma related work home: Advice from the British Psychological Society for reducing the likelihood of secondary trauma

[Webinars](#) - Siobhan Maclean is running a series of webinars to keep students connected during the pandemic which have been made available to view on YouTube. Her [website](#) will announce subsequent webinars which will be fortnightly on Wednesdays.

Back to school:

[Toolkit](#) - Coram Life Education has launched a free teaching toolkit to support children's health and wellbeing when they return to school. The toolkit is designed to build children's resilience, self-esteem and kindness and includes practical resources in line with new government guidance, such as lesson ideas for smaller class sizes and to use outdoors.

Families and parenting:

[Podcast](#) - The Association of Child Protection Professionals (AoCPP) has released a podcast about bonding and attachment for new mothers that have had babies during the coronavirus pandemic and how practitioners can support them.

[Films](#) - King's College London's Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience, South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust and Maudsley Charity have launched a series of eight short films to help families struggling under the coronavirus pandemic. The Families Under Pressure series offers parenting tips and advice on topics including: keeping positive and motivated; building your child's self-confidence and trust in you; promoting better behaviour; how to limit conflict; and using sanctions carefully.



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Thank you for reading!

If you have any good news stories, examples of excellent practice, or helpful resources that you'd like to share, please send these through to us at: admin@developingtogetherswtp.org.uk

We would also be grateful to receive comments or suggestions on the newsletter, including any topics you'd like to see covered in future editions.