



# DEVELOPING TOGETHER

SOCIAL WORK  
TEACHING PARTNERSHIP

Newsletter | Issue 13 | Date: 29.9.2021 |

Welcome to September's newsletter,

It's been great to see the return of some normality and a busy University campus with our social work students resuming face to face teaching this month.

September also saw Emma Raducanu make history by becoming the first qualifier and youngest British player to win a Grand Slam title at the US Open; exhilarating to watch!

On a more sombre note, we remembered the 2,996 lives lost in 9/11 on the 20th anniversary of the tragedy. We commemorate those who we lost and give thanks to the brave first responders who put their lives on the line.

We hope you enjoy the latest edition of the newsletter,

The TP Team

# Contents



Item	Page
Step Up To Social Work Kingston University Validation & Social Work England Remote Inspection	3
Anti-Racism Training	4
BLM Discussion Groups	5
Training for External Colleagues	6
Peer QA of Placement Reports: Summary of Findings	7
Social Work England Updates	8
Teaching Partnership Research Hub	9
'For the Love of Social Work' Celebration and Awards Ceremony	10

Item	Page
Vacancy on Citizens Advice Sutton Trustee Board	11
World Menopause Day and Breast Cancer Awareness Month	12
Kingston University Academic Research and Publications	13
NQSW Welcome	14
Black History Month	15
Wellbeing	16
Research in Practice Resources	17
Thank you	18

## Step Up To Social Work Kingston University Validation & Social Work England Remote Inspection

The Teaching Partnership is pleased to announce that following a successful internal validation process at Kingston University and a remote inspection from Social Work England, the Fast Track Post Graduate Diploma course for Step Up Cohort 7 has been approved subject to meeting some final conditions. We are the first Step Up programme provider to be inspected and validated by the new regulator.

Kingston University, Achieving for Children and London Borough of Sutton will be running this new course for 12 students, with study commencing in January 2022. Students will be required to study and complete academic pieces of work to gain the necessary credits alongside the practice learning in the workplace. At the end of the 14 month full-time programme, the graduates will gain a Post Graduate Diploma in Social Work, enabling them to register as a social worker.

The inspectors commented on our clear, strong relationships between agencies and that these relationships stand out as being particularly memorable amongst all inspections that they have been a part of.

On 31 August and 1 September, Nashan Wilson (Sutton's Anti-Racist Practice Lead) delivered the pilot 1.5 days of Anti-Racism training that he had developed, supported by Josie Newton, Sharon Evans and Taz Mudali from the TP Team. The training was attended by 12 NQSWs from Sutton Children's services. It was very well received by the attendees, and allowed for a lot of important and constructive conversations around anti-racism and how to be an effective ally.

Sadly, Nash has now left for pastures new. However, in order to preserve the expertise and continue the work that Nash has started, he did a 'Train the Trainer' session with Josie, Sharon and Taz so that they could take this training forward across the Partnership. The plans for this roll-out are in development and will be shared once agreed.





## BLM Discussion Groups

Our BLM: The Voice of SW Reflective Discussion Groups are developing from strength to strength. On 3rd August, members of the TP team co-facilitated the session 'Working with Dual-heritage families: What is working? What isn't working?'. We asked ourselves, what more do we need to do to ensure we are working accurately and respectfully with those from dual-heritage families, who are becoming over-represented in services.

In our continuing journey to challenge our own privilege and further develop our understanding in being 'anti-racist', the majority of the TP team attended the webinar 'How to have conversations about race at work' facilitated by Jenny Garrett OBE - you can watch the recording [here](#).



Subjects included the difference between race and racism, the importance of having a safe space to be able to engage in these discussions and a focus on 'language' used. We would encourage you to take the time to watch when you can.

On 14th September we welcomed new co-facilitators to our BLM Discussion Groups. We are so thrilled that you have joined us! We shared how we have listened to feedback and actioned accordingly e.g. having more time, with smaller breakout groups, which are now facilitator-led and most importantly, are those with lived experience i.e. black co-facilitators. Feedback from participants includes: "really enjoyed the themes / subject areas", that they "found the space helpful" and "really liked the delivery approach". Brilliant!

These groups are free to attend and open to all - come along to the next one on 5th October at 2pm to discuss: [Is it time we face up to colourism \(skin tone bias\)?](#)



## Training for External Colleagues

We are now opening up a number of our training events to external bookings. If you work for an organisation that's not part of our regional Teaching Partnership, or have limited access to our provision as you work for one of our secondary partner agencies\*\*, please access links below for more information and bookings.

Some of the events coming up in October are:

- [Anti-Oppressive Practice in Social Care with Dr. Prospera Tedam](#) - 7.10.21 **AND** 14.10.21
- [KSS Reflective Workshop](#) - 11.10.21
- [Child Sexual Exploitation](#) - 20.10.21
- [Critical Analysis and Writing Analytical Assessments](#) -21.10.21

N.B. If you work for one of our primary partner agencies\*, please do **not** use these links to book, instead you should book via the links in the Teaching Partnership's annual CPD Brochure - your Workforce Development Team can provide you with a copy, or you can email us [admin@developingtogetherswtp.org.uk](mailto:admin@developingtogetherswtp.org.uk).

\*Primary partners are: Achieving for Children, Croydon Adults, Kingston Adults, Merton Adults, Sutton Adults, Sutton Children, NSPCC, Welcare and Kingston University.

\*\*Secondary partners are: Croydon Children, Merton Children, Surrey Children, Richmond & Wandsworth Adults and Wandsworth Children.



## Peer QA of Placement Reports: Summary of Findings

In the 2018-19 academic year, as part of the Placement Quality Assurance project, the then Teaching Partnership Practice Education Team reviewed a mixture of 54 placement reports (Practice Learning Agreement, Midway and End of Placement) across undergraduate and postgraduate social work placements. The review found that the majority of reports were being presented to at least a satisfactory standard, PEs were mostly satisfied with the systems in place to arrange and support placements and they were all satisfied with the availability of learning opportunities in their settings. However, a number of areas, which could be developed or strengthened, were identified. It was agreed that the QA process could be strengthened by actively sampling and reviewing a range of placement documents and that this should be a shared responsibility (University and employer partners) and lead to both individual and organisational feedback for Practice Educators (PEs) Onsite Supervisors (OSSs) and tutors. It was also agreed that collective evaluation of reporting from each organisation, would offer the opportunity to highlight examples of good practice and this could also promote the dissemination of those standards across all partnership organisations.

The Peer QA of Placement Reports Panel (Pilot) was thus set up in May this year, with the first Panel taking place in June. The group was chaired by Dale Van Graan from Kingston University and had representation from Merton Adults, Merton Children, Wandsworth Children, London Borough of Sutton and Achieving For Children. The group actively sampled and reviewed a range of Placement Reports from contrasting organisations and summarised individual feedback for the PEs.

Following this first Panel meeting, we have collated the key learnings, covering both areas for improvement, as well as areas of strength in current practice. Please click **here** to access the the full report, covering the key themes and issues raised at this panel.

The next review panel is due to be held in November after which further learnings will be shared.



- As you will already be aware, the Annual Social Work England registration renewal deadline is fast approaching and must be completed by 30th November. Social Work England are providing free workshops on Tuesday 2nd November and Tuesday 16th November, online via Microsoft Teams. These online sessions are open to all social workers and are aimed at people who need support to complete continuing professional development (CPD) and who want to find out more about registration and annual renewal. To attend, you must book in advance and can do so by clicking [here](#).
- Social Work England has also now confirmed that as of next year, Social Workers in England will need to submit two pieces of continuing professional development (CPD) to renew their registration. This doubles the requirement of one piece of CPD. The change will come into force for the registration year starting on 1 December 2021, alongside a requirement to reflect on one piece of CPD with a peer and the replacement of the current two forms for recording CPD with a single, simpler form.
- To coincide with the start of the new academic year, Social Work England has also launched the [new education and training standards](#), which will be used to assess over 80 social work education and training providers across England.



## Teaching Partnership Research Hub



*By Sharon Evans, Teaching Partnership Practice Consultant*

The first Teaching Partnership Research Hub took place on Thursday 16th September 2021. It was great to meet with social workers who are as passionate about research as I am. We spent some time critiquing a piece of research together, following the framework for reading research critically, which I have developed. We all learned together during this experience and found the Hub interesting and stimulating.

There was a mixture of children's and adult social workers in attendance and we all agreed that the principles we were discussing around critiquing research could apply to all the different settings we were working in.



If you'd like to join us at the next Hub, on 14th October at 2pm, please email us for joining details [admin@developingtogetherswtp.org.uk](mailto:admin@developingtogetherswtp.org.uk). We decide as a group what we would like to cover in upcoming sessions and a request was made to compare two pieces of research on the same topic at the next session. We will be looking at two pieces of attachment research and exploring these together as a group. There is no need to prepare as time is given during the session for reading.

We all look forward to seeing you there, and if you have any questions in the meantime please feel free to [contact Sharon Evans](#) from the TP team.



# 'For the Love of Social Work': A Celebration and Awards Ceremony

## 9th December 2021, 09:30-12:30



The Teaching Partnership will once again be hosting a Social Work Awards Ceremony, on 9th December, 09:30 - 12:30. Please save the date! This is an opportunity to honour the profession, as well as celebrate individual achievements of social workers and students across partner agencies, so **please do take the time to nominate a colleague or peer.**

Awards categories can be seen below and full descriptions of each category can be found [here](#):

- Social Worker of the Year (Adults)
- Social Worker of the Year (Childrens)
- Social Work Student of the Year
- Teaching Consultant of the Year
- Practice Educator of the Year
- ASYE Assessor of the Year
- NQSW of the Year (Adults)
- NQSW of the Year (Children)
- Team Leader of the Year (Adults)
- Team Leader of the Year (Adults)
- Team Leader of the Year (Children)
- Outstanding Contribution to supporting Equality & Diversity
- Outstanding Contribution to supporting Social Worker Wellbeing
- Outstanding Contribution to Social Work Teaching & Academia

### PRIZES

The winner and special mention in each category will be presented with their award at a [virtual ceremony: 9 December 2021](#)

#### Winner

- . £50 Love2Shop voucher
- . Certificate of achievement

#### Special Mention

- . £25 Love2Shop voucher
- . Certificate of achievement



Please click [here](#) to download the nomination form. If you have any difficulty accessing the form please get in touch with us.

**Please submit your nominations by 11:59pm Friday 5th November, by emailing [admin@developingtogetherswtp.org.uk](mailto:admin@developingtogetherswtp.org.uk)**



## Vacancy on Citizens Advice Sutton Trustee Board

Sutton's Citizen's Advice Service is looking for a new member on its trustee board. They can't have anyone currently employed by LB of Sutton but are keen to have someone who has a social services/safeguarding background. For example, this could be a practising social worker, a social work academic, or a retired social worker etc.

If you think the opportunity may be of interest to someone in your service, please could you share [this advert](#)?

Anyone interested should contact Steve Triner directly - Citizens Advice Sutton CEO – [recruitment@citizensadvicesutton.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@citizensadvicesutton.org.uk)



## World Menopause Day and Breast Cancer Awareness Month



This October it is both Breast Cancer Awareness Month, as well as World Menopause Day! Both have affected a number of us in the partnership or our close friends and family, as I'm sure it will have affected many people you know. Please have a look at the resources below to learn more and to get involved!



### Breast Cancer Awareness:

Whatever your age or gender, knowing your body and being aware of the symptoms of breast cancer is really important. Each year, about 55,000 women and 390 men are diagnosed with breast cancer in the UK. Regularly checking breast tissue can save lives, please [watch this helpful 'how-to' video](#) from Coppafeel.

On 22nd October, we will be wearing Pink for Breast Cancer Now's [Wear It Pink Day](#). Taking place during Breast Cancer Awareness Month, thousands of amazing people wear it pink in their communities, schools or workplaces on this day to raise money for this incredible charity. Join us in wearing pink, take a picture and tag us on Twitter: [@developopt\\_swtp](#)



### World Menopause Day:

Women comprise 47% of the UK's workforce, with about 3.5 million of these women being aged 50 and over. The menopause transition is a reproductive health stage for women and occurs naturally between the ages of 45 and 55. Research has found that 25% of women will experience symptoms that will negatively impact their health and wellbeing at this time and can often struggle with feeling overwhelmed due to the fluctuation of hormones. On 18th October we will be acknowledging World Menopause Day, to raise awareness of the menopause and the support options available for improving health and wellbeing during this time. Please visit [the International Menopause Society](#) for more information and advice, as well as details of their latest paper on Osteoporosis and bone health.



Academics in the Social Work and Social Care Department at Kingston University have been busy over the summer with a number of articles being published. Dr Simon Abbott has had an article published in the British Journal of Social Work; [‘A Study Exploring How Social Work AMHPs Experience Assessment Under Mental Health Law: Implications For Human Rights Oriented Social Work Practice’](#). The research conducted with AMHPs illuminates the ethical challenges in realising human rights-oriented practice when assessing people within the mental health system and the diminished voice of the person being assessed in the process of the assessment.

Dr Rick Hood and Allie Goldacre's article, [‘Exploring the impact of Ofsted inspections on performance in children's social care’](#), published in Children and Youth Services review, reports on the data from annual published returns from 150 English Local Authorities from 2009-19 and the results from Ofsted inspections under the Single Inspection Framework (2014–17). The data analysis found an increase in the rate of child protection interventions occurring at the time of the inspection, which was most pronounced in LA's receiving an inadequate judgement, as well as a steep rise in spending and use of agency workers compared to other LA's. [Community Care recently published an article](#) linked to this research which is an interesting read.

Sue Lansley, Carol Dicken and Dale van Graan are to be presenting at the Journal of Practice Teaching & Learning 13th International Conference on Practice Teaching and Field Education in Health and Social Work in October, where they will share Kingston University and the Teaching Partnership's response to supporting social work students to complete their placements through the use of simulated activities during Covid 19.



## Welcome to Newly Qualified Social Workers starting their ASYE

A big **WELCOME** to all of those Newly Qualified Social Workers who started their ASYE this September. This is another step along the way in your social work journey as you gain further skills and knowledge to add to your social work toolkit. This year will give you the opportunity to develop further and increase your confidence in your practice, working with your colleagues and other professionals to support individuals, children and their families to achieve the best outcomes for them in their lives.

Along with the support and guidance you will receive from your team, manager and assessor, to help you along your way the Teaching Partnership runs a range of training and workshops to support your continued professional development. If you require copy of our CPD Brochure, your Workforce Development Team can provide you with this, or you can email us [admin@developingtogetherswtp.org.uk](mailto:admin@developingtogetherswtp.org.uk).

You may also like to bookmark [this link](#) which shows upcoming free, open access events being offered by Kingston University's Department of Social Work and Social Care. The Department runs a Seminar Series and an Annual Conference; Speakers are leading national and international researchers, policy makers and commentators, who are invited to deliver talks on issues of topical and contemporary importance.





October is Black History month, a time where we celebrate and remember black history and culture and how it is ingrained in the very fabric of Great Britain. Throughout this month, we pay tribute to the achievements of the icons and legends who have helped to shape the nation that we know today, from Mary Seacole's heroism, to Samuel Coleridge's poetry, to the powerful tones of Shirley Bassey, and many more. This year, we are hosting two celebratory events to recognise and commemorate the importance of the black community on British history and culture.

These events are free and open to all - just click on the event title below to join the online session.

### **[Celebrating Black History - 4th October 2021. 09:30 - 12:30](#)**

Please join us on Zoom for this morning of open reflective sessions. The first morning session will be focused on the book '*Learnings from The Private Joys of Nnenna Maloney*' by Okechukwu Nzelu. This session will focus on the books aspects of identity and learning about one's roots. The second morning session will focus on a number of 'hidden' Black Britons and their significance in history.

### **[Celebrating Black Voices pt 2 - 28th October 2021. 14:00 - 16:00](#)**

Please join us for this event on Zoom, a follow up to the Celebrating Black Voices pt 1 event held in May. The afternoon will involve readings by Sherifa Adenmosun and Annetta Pinto-Young from their pieces published in '*Outlanders: Hidden Narratives From Social Workers of Colour*'. There will be an opportunity to ask questions. This will be followed by a montage celebrating notable Black voices and time for open discussions.

## Wellbeing



### Emotional Resilience & Wellbeing in Social Work Conference

Our annual Emotional Resilience & Wellbeing in Social Work Conference takes place on the 25th November this year, to promote and encourage wellbeing and resilience in social work.

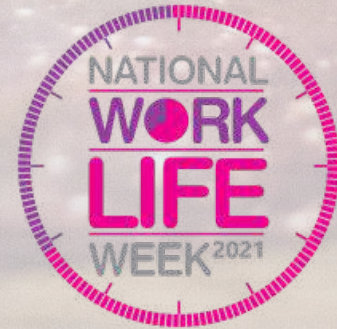
The day will have a selection of speakers and workshops to provide practical skills to help social care professionals develop and implement skills and techniques around emotional resilience and wellbeing.

The full agenda and details will be circulated closer to the time!

### National Work Life Week

11-15 October 2021 marks National Work Life Week, providing the perfect opportunity to put a spotlight on the need for work-life balance for all employees and the business benefits of getting it right. Here are some ideas on how you can get involved:

- Highlight some great examples of people working flexibly in your workforce, whether it's because they have caring responsibilities, are pursuing interests outside of work or progressing towards retirement
- Showcase your family friendly working policies and practices
- Put on a special event for staff like a lunchtime discussion, workshop or webinar on topics around work life balance



October 11-15 2021

Working Families is the UK's work-life balance charity and their mission is to remove the barriers that people with caring responsibilities face in the workplace. Their Employer Toolkit can be accessed [here](#).





## Research in Practice Resources

Research in Practice is an organisation that brings together academic research, practice expertise and the experiences of people accessing services. We have been working with them to collate some of their open-access resources, which do not require membership to access!

### Resources

- **Promoting anti-racism in social work:** A new [presentation](#) and [podcast](#) examines key issues around racism and inequality, which invites us to reflect on our own thoughts, feelings and behaviours as practitioners, leaders and allies.

### Blogs

- [Why intersectionality is vital to anti-discriminatory practice](#)
- [Connecting learning from the Care Experienced Conference – what's happened since?](#)



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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](mailto: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.