



DEVELOPING TOGETHER
SOCIAL WORK
TEACHING PARTNERSHIP



***Social Work Awards
2021***



DEVELOPING TOGETHER

SOCIAL WORK
TEACHING PARTNERSHIP



Categories

Outstanding Contribution to Supporting Equality & Diversity
Outstanding Contribution to Social Work Teaching & Academia
Practice Educator of the Year
Social Work Student of the Year
Social Worker of the Year (Children)
Social Worker of the Year (Adults)
NQSW of the Year (Children)
NQSW of the Year (Adults)
Team Leader of the Year (Children)
Team Leader of the Year (Adults)

PRIZES

Winner

- . £50 Love2Shop voucher
- . Certificate of achievement

Special Mention

- . £25 Love2Shop voucher
- . Certificate of achievement

Shortlisted

- . £10 Love2Shop voucher
- . Certificate of achievement

*Outstanding Contribution to
Supporting Equality &
Diversity*



And the Winner is...

Natesha Yanguba

Natesha has been undertaking work, both in her old and new roles, to promote anti-racist social work – she has been prepared to challenge Managers, and colleagues – including our Recruitment team – to be reflective around unconscious bias and learn from that reflection

Natesha always looks to further our learning within the team, in particular she drew awareness to cases of inequality that had taken place in the news and she would facilitate very interesting discussion about the case

And the Winner is...

Andrea Bryant

Everything Andrea does oozes equality, diversity and inclusion - she calls people out when there are clear elements of racism or injustice, she advocates and fights for childrens and families rights and she supports and teaches others to consider the impact of their judgements, assessments and bias.

Andrea is a proactive champion of anti-racism and has designed, led and produced a series of events to celebrate black history month for the last 2 years, allowing the workforce to support and promote a diverse and inclusive culture within our service and the wider council

*Outstanding Contribution to
Social Work Teaching &
Academia*



And the Winner is...

Richard Sammut

Richard has really embraced the opportunities that the teaching partnership has given him and I am proud that Sutton has been able to support one of our most highly valued Service managers to contribute their wealth of knowledge to the Partnership which is clearly paying dividends.

Richard clearly has a passion for supporting, teaching and nurturing others but we need to remember that this in context of a multitude of other competing demands that he achieves to the same exceptionally high standards.

Practice Educator of the Year



And the Winner is...

Susan Low

Susan has gone above and beyond in her role as a PE as she has played a key role in promoting the health and wellbeing of her student, and the locality team in which she works. I am the manager of the team and I value the support that Susan has provided.

Susan is passionate and keen to support the development of future social workers, and promotes the notion of Merton council being a learning organization. Most important, however is the excellent feedback I received from the student regarding Susan's incredibly positive contribution to the learning experience.

Social Work Student of the Year



And the Winner is...

Sarah Reeves

Sarah's placement portfolio was reviewed by our PAP who commented that 'Sarah has clearly embraced all the challenges of her placement, taken initiative and evidenced her child-centred approach. She should be commended for her social work values and advocacy for disabled children. We recommend that her portfolio is used as an exemplar of good practice'.

I had the absolute pleasure of line managing Sarah during her last placement...[she] has worked with young people and families to create changes in their lives which will see them achieve some amazing outcomes in the future. One example is where initially, a young man would only come out of his room briefly to say hello to Sarah, but he now will spend time with her in the living room talking about his dog and his course at Capel Manor that Sarah pushed for him to attend and he absolutely loves

Special Mention to...

Sarah Mail

We seem to be running out of superlatives to describe Sarah's work both in class and in her work role. As an apprentice social worker, Sarah spends 80% of her time in work and 20% in the classroom. We have got used to the strong personal and professional skill sets that apprentices bring, but Sarah has proved to be working at a level far beyond what we would expect for a first year student

She has a real commitment to and understanding of social work values and epitomises these in her day to day work. Her relationship building skills are first rate and it is clear that she really cares both about the children and families she works with and for, and ensures that her approach is always professional. She is also brave in what she does and will directly and professionally address discrimination where she finds it

*Social Worker of the Year
(Children)*



And the Winner is...

Ardita Gjyshinca

"I just wanted to say a huge thank you for the last 12 years of my life, you've helped and supported me so much. You're the closest thing to family that I have in this country and without your support I don't know where I'd be right now"

From testimonials from both young people and professionals and from direct work observation, Ardita's way of remaining calm, solution focused and person centred is consistent whether giving impartial advice to young people or dealing with crisis led interventions

Special Mention to...

Bridget Brown

A well grounded, experienced and calm practitioner, Bridget as noted is able to work with children and their families to reduce risk and bring about change in a timely way, which builds on family strengths and resources to bring about and maintain change.

In one case, a previous child was removed from mother's care. Bridget worked so robustly with the family during the pre-birth stage that by the time the baby was born the child protection plan was sufficient to keep baby safe and this was only in place for a short period of time. Bridget advocated for the family, balancing strength with risk, and worked with the family to ensure the safety and well being of the baby and thus avoid care proceedings.

*NQSW of the Year
(Children)*



And the Winner is...

Lisa-Marie Mckenzie

She listens to me - not that I like talking a lot - but she is also patient with me. I'm glad my mum had the support and the push she needed from social services to give up alcohol. Mum has got a lot better emotionally and physically when Lisa-Marie came along

Lisa-Marie has shared her skills with her team and NQSW cohort. She has supported the recruitment process by engaging in an appreciative enquiry/interview which inspired potential applications for the next ASYE cohort. She brought a lot of credibility, given that she had that direct experience

Special Mention to...

Georgia King

My son has social and communication difficulties. It's really hard for him to express himself. When she's working with my son, Georgia will help him think through actions and goals. She then breaks things down with him and goes through step by step together with him how he might reach that goal. This helps him to really understand what's happening and it empowers him

Georgia demonstrates emotional intelligence and has a strong sense of fairness which motivates her to achieve the best possible outcomes for children and young people. Georgia is also helpful, kind and considerate to her colleagues both in the team and the wider service

Special Mention to...

Verity Marklew

Verity has been enhancing the learning of others, including much more experienced social workers! She has facilitated learning around direct work in a range of teams and had been creating further tools to support communication such as a structured letter of introduction to help children to understand the social worker's role

Verity has also been supporting the Teaching Partnership with the working with difference Practice Educator workshop, bringing in her ideas and experiences to promote understanding of difference for PEs and line managers. She has promoted awareness of how to empower and enable others to make learning accessible and celebrate difference

*Team Leader of the Year
(Children)*



And the Winner is...

Joanne Mitchell

One of Jo's key achievements in her current role was working hard to move her statutory team of social workers from 100% agency workers into a team of 100% permanent social workers!

Jo is innovative - she is able to take issues, analyse the trend and then act about recognising training needs, development days, and implementing strategies that are based on the best outcomes for children.

Jo was parachuted in to the children with disabilities team in February 2020, which was then held in adult services. She needed to work with a different framework and Jo's approach was based on her great leadership, her safeguarding knowledge, her people skills, her organisational skills, her motivational skills and her can do attitude!

Special Mention to...

Emma Crawford

Emma is not a manager that sits behind a desk delegating tasks and giving reflections on supervisions Emma will allocate time to be front line engaging with the young people and the families in our cohort and supporting the staff throughout the journey

I feel so honored to be working within the contextual safeguarding team and to gain supervision from Emma. The team thinks she is amazing which is so powerful when you work in this field to have management that supports you and understands the risks that you are holding

I wish Emma was around when my oldest was struggling and I know we really would have been in a different situation to now. Emma has truly made a terrible situation a lot more bearable, and for once I felt I could actually sit back and trust the support me and my family would get

Special Mention to...

Shelley Leo

In a climate where there is a national shortage of social workers, anyone wishing to be a social worker or indeed is on the social worker journey will in my view be in awe of Shelley - she quite simply represents as a person every single social work value.

From taking on a turbulent team, Shelley has grown one of the most stable teams, which combines experienced staff with those who are at the beginning of their social work career. You see buddy systems in place in the team, you see shared learning and support, you see comradery and you see children being kept safe and good outcomes being achieved. This is all under her watchful eye and leadership.

Shelley's leadership qualities shine through in the feedback we receive about her from her team who without exception talk about the support and guidance she extends. In addition we cannot fail to notice the outcomes that are achieved for children in her locality, with exemplary case work being evidenced.

*Social Worker of the Year
(Adults)*



And the Winner is...

Emma Price

Emma has brought changes to our team by setting a good example to less experienced social workers. Emma often takes the lead in sharing information and making suggestions on how we could work differently to achieve better outcomes for our clients. She is enthusiastic in approaching new areas of work and has been excellent in promoting social work to other professionals

Emma's a great Social Worker who is completely supportive of everything that I want to do in life. She has worked extremely hard for me over the past 4 and a half years, helping me get to where I am today, which is back living in the community after being in a care home for just over 5 years. Thanks to Emma I am finally settled in my own flat and very happy living my life as I want.

Special Mention to...

Natesha Yanguba

Natesha has made a huge difference to the Disability service, in particular her passion is the facilitating of the learning of others. Natesha has enabled this by delivering training to us in the team by herself in team meetings and also through organised courses with the Teaching Partnership

She worked with many people who found themselves in highly challenging situations, often with complex needs. She tirelessly sought to go the extra mile to promote her clients' independence and sought to empower them to find their own solutions whenever possible. Her ability to engage positively and proactively with all the people involved in her work has frequently been noted and commented on

*NQSW of the Year
(Adults)*



And the Winner is...

Anita Brown

Anita is the Enquiry Officer for a long-standing financial abuse case. Anita has worked with this resident throughout lockdown, to build a relationship and played a vital role getting the Police to reopen the case and implement a protection plan

*Anita's work is centered around supporting residents to achieve **their outcomes**. Anita has been a role model to this team. She has inspired others with her genuine care, drive and determination to support*

Anita has grown tremendously and supported a final year student throughout their placement. Anita has shown great initiative by setting up weekly meetings with the student, supporting with shadowing opportunities and with the completion of written work. Anita has been a great role model, and this student has now re-joined the team

Team Leader of the Year (Adults)



And the Winner is...

Nkechi Lambert

Nkechi is able to think about what is best for her own Team, and the broader Service – balancing these needs is not easy, yet she makes it seem effortless

She is unafraid to tackle issues where things have gone wrong, to be transparent and to learn from mistakes – she encourages this approach in her team as well. Her supportive approach to staff has made them better able to empower and support vulnerable adults

The work Nkechi has led on with her team has helped adult social care in Croydon move to a more strength based model – helping clients become more independent, rather than dependent. Her team piloted this work in Croydon and have contributed significantly to its adoption across all our adult social care teams

A big WELL DONE to everyone shortlisted:

Anisha Patel

Nicole Wildman

Rajiva Nurse

Hilda Adu

Sharna Gayle

Suzy Mullally

Tarhe Ibehre

Amelia Paskin

Sabina Stolarz

Laura Holland

Olutobi Ladejobi

Emily Murphy



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Congratulations to everyone who was nominated for an award.

Thank you to those who put forward nominations and our fabulous shortlisting teams.

And **Thank You** to **all of you** for all your hard work this year!