



# DEVELOPING TOGETHER

## SOCIAL WORK TEACHING PARTNERSHIP

Newsletter | Issue 15 | Date: 28.1.22 |

Welcome to January's newsletter,

We hope everyone enjoyed a nice break over the festive period and it doesn't feel too distant a memory! We are excited to be embarking on new projects and opportunities and are looking forward to the year ahead.

After living through another year in a pandemic, we should all be extremely proud of what we have overcome and need to make sure that we take steps to look after ourselves in 2022. With a new year, often comes the temptation to put extreme pressure on ourselves to make big changes and set unrealistic goals and expectations of what we need to achieve. This year, when thinking of self-improvement, find things that work for you, irrespective of what others are doing. Visit [mentalhealth.org](https://www.mentalhealth.org) for helpful ideas on how to work on your relationship with yourself. And remember, ask for support if you need it.

**'The relationship with yourself, sets the tone for every relationship you have' - Robert Holden**

We hope you enjoy reading the latest edition of the newsletter,

The TP Team

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## Research Hub Update



We have just finished evaluating our Research Hub, which commenced in September 2021. If you have attended a Hub you will have received an invitation to complete a short feedback form on Survey Monkey. Some colleagues have also taken part in a focus group to explore some of the evaluation questions in more detail.

Sharon Evans has analysed the data from the evaluation and presented a report for the Research Strategy Group. The proposal for next steps was accepted by the Group, which is for the Hub to continue. There will be a trial period of 2 hubs per month for March, April and May to give more opportunities for attendance as suggested by the focus group.

The last date for this current series of Research Hub sessions is in February.

The Hubs will continue after February, so keep out a look out for the next series of dates for the Research Hub from the Teaching Partnership or email [sharon.evans@developingtogetherswtp.org.uk](mailto:sharon.evans@developingtogetherswtp.org.uk) for more information.



## Training for External Colleagues

- 1.2.22 (9:30am - 12noon) - [PE Workshop: Individual Difference](#)
- 3.2.22 (9:30am - 12noon) - [PE Workshop: Supporting Students with the Development of Professionalism](#)
- 7.2.22 (10am - 12 noon) - [KSS Reflective Workshop](#)
- 8.2.22 (9:30am - 12noon) - [PE Workshop: Report Writing](#)
- 15.2.22 (9:30am - 12noon) - [PE Workshop: Assessing & Evidencing Values & Ethics](#)
- 1.3.22 (9:30am - 12noon) - [PE Workshop: Struggling Placements](#)
- 3.3.22 (9:30am - 12:30pm) - [Social Graces Workshop](#)
- 15.3.22 (9:30am - 12:30pm) - [PE Workshop: Supervision Skills to Enable Reflection and Analysis](#)
- 14.3.22 (9:30am - 12:30pm) - ['Think Family': Child Protection for Adult Social Workers](#)
- 14.3.22 (1:30 - 4:30pm) - ['Think Family': Safeguarding Mental Health for Children & Families Social Workers](#)
- 22.3.22 (9:30am - 12noon) - [PE Workshop: Assessing Against the PCF/PQS & SWE Standards](#)
- 29.3.22 (9:30am - 12noon) - [PE Workshop: Promoting the Learning of Students using Direct Work Tools](#)

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.



## Social Work Week 2022



Social Work Week 2022 will bring people together to learn, connect, and engage around social work. This year, the focus is 'Social work and me' and the theme is 'Co-building a New Eco-Social World: Leaving No One Behind'. There will be a programme of events from Social Work England, people with lived experience of social work, and the social work sector.

The week will also complement the annual World Social Work Day celebrations on 15 March 2022. You can find out more about Social Work Week [here](#).

As a Partnership, we are pleased to report that we will be submitting a Conference style event to be considered for Social Work England's programme. Our focus will be 'Think Family', bringing together children and adults social workers, and the theme will be 'Attachment through the life course and practicing cultural competence'. We have some exciting speakers lined up and can't wait to share more details with you soon! In the meantime, please save the date **Monday 14th March** and register your earlybird booking [here](#).

Kingston University is also holding their annual social work and social care conference during Social Work Week, on **Wednesday 16th March**. This promises to be a fascinating event, with a theme of 'Social Work in a Global Context: international research and practice during the COVID-19 pandemic'. Book your place [here](#).

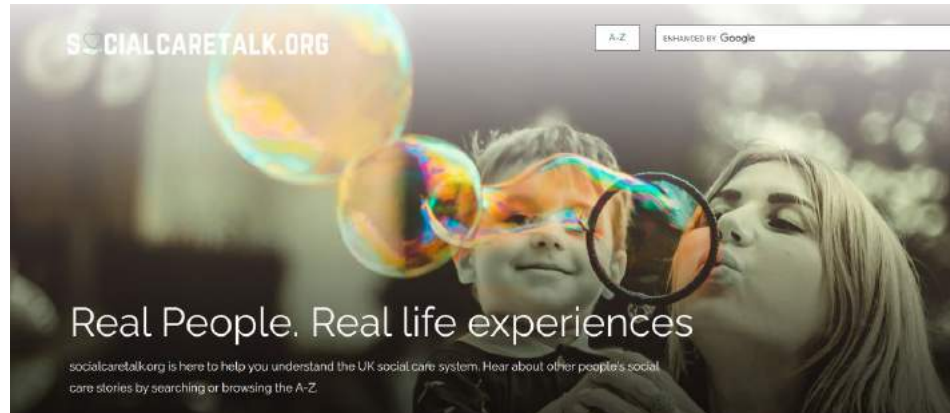


## Social Care Talk

On [Social Care Talk](https://socialcaretalk.org) you can find out about what it's like to navigate the UK social care system, by watching other people share their stories. Their website helps to prepare social work students and social workers for what's ahead and is based on academic research into real people's experiences of social care.

They are a collaboration of The School for Social Care Research, The University of Oxford and the Dipex Charity and help millions of people each year to feel better prepared and informed about the realities of social work.

Their website is still under development but will include useful material for teaching, learning and professional development. The material is all directly from people with lived experience who have participated in national qualitative research studies.



## Good News Story!

Sue Connell, Professional Practice Development Assessor with Wandsworth Children's Services and one of Kingston University's Teaching Consultants, recently passed her Masters in Advanced Social Work Practice.

*"I have been a Teaching Consultant for the last three years and I thoroughly enjoy it. The learning has definitely fed into my practice as a Practice Assessor and Practice Educator and vice versa. I was excited to access the training provided at Kingston University, to subsequently complete the reflective module SW7025 and successfully apply for the Associate Fellowship. This fired up my enthusiasm for further learning. The lovely modules inspired me but also bumped up my credits. When it was highlighted to me that I was a 'Capstone away from a Masters' (in Advanced Social Work Practice) I felt ready to go for it. I completed my research on virtual social work supervisions and it was a great experience. I have felt so supported by my employers at Wandsworth and the Teaching Partnership and Kingston University. In their usual wonderful way, Kingston somehow made it work and I got all I needed online whilst studying through Covid (like so many students). Whilst working full time plus! I didn't know what to expect, but I learned such a lot and can feel an increase in my academic confidence, and in my work with students and NQSWs. I had a fantastic tutor and now have a better relationship with research. Oh, and a masters too."*

**A huge congratulations to Sue! Well done on all of your hard work!**



## Social Pedagogy Collaborative Project

The Working with Children & Young People: Social Pedagogy BA (Hons) students, who graduated this year and are now Level 6 Social Pedagogy Practitioners, have been working with staff to co-create a resource to help those studying and practising Social Pedagogy in the UK and beyond. Chapters are being co-authored with Social Pedagogy Lecturers, with each chapter having an associated short film to accompany it, allowing greater creativity, accessibility, and applicability of Social Pedagogy ideas and interventions.

This collaborative project was showcased at the Social Pedagogy Professional Association's (SPPA) Annual Conference in September, and continues into 2022. If you would like any information about this piece of work, please contact BA (Hons) Working With Children & Young People:

- Social Pedagogy Course Leader Yvalia Febrer ([Y.Febrer@sgul.kingston.ac.uk](mailto:Y.Febrer@sgul.kingston.ac.uk))
- Senior Lecturer Kelly Gittens ([K.Gittens@sgul.kingston.ac.uk](mailto:K.Gittens@sgul.kingston.ac.uk))
- Senior Lecturer Marte Bergan ([M.Bergan@sgul.kingston.ac.uk](mailto:M.Bergan@sgul.kingston.ac.uk))



## SW7036 Safeguarding Adults at Risk (Online Module)



Kingston University's next **Safeguarding Adults at Risk** Post Qualifying Module will be running on 8th, 9th and 11th February 2022. The module will be run online via MS Teams, and is a 3-day, 15 credit module at Master's level that will be jointly led by by Tim Spencer-Lane and Maria Brent.

This module has been developed to enable professionals in both health and social care settings to develop their knowledge and skills in supporting adults at risk. The introduction of the Care Act 2014 and 'Making Safeguarding Personal', developed by the Local Government Association and the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services, promotes a cultural shift towards outcome-focused, person-centred approaches in how we support adults at risk.

It is suitable for social workers, nurses, and allied health professionals whose role may require them to work with adults at risk.

[This flyer](#) has full information on the course, including how to apply. Partner agencies will receive a discount on fees.

## Update on 'BLM: The Voice of Social Work - Reflective Discussion Groups'



Following the murder of George Floyd (25.05.20), the excellent article by Wayne Reid (Professional Officer, Social Worker and Anti-Racism Visionary at BASW) "Social work must respond with action – not platitudes" in June '20, which highlighted 'disappointing responses from social work leaders' in acknowledging and addressing racism, and the positive feedback from initial BLM groups, we have continued to deliver our 'BLM: The Voice of Social Work - reflective discussion groups'.

After we have a short introduction and agreement on the session, a brief 10-15 minutes on the topic, we then breakout into groups for 30 minute discussion. Topics of discussion have included 'Unconscious bias', 'The 'problem' woman of colour and racial trauma', 'Privilege', 'The voice of colourism' and 'Language'. In our next session we will be unpicking what we know and the differing views of how helpful (or more to the point, unhelpful) the acronym 'BAME' is. All key themes i.e. learning and experiences etc, from the small breakout group discussions are collated and fed back to TP Strategic Board, with the aim to develop anti-racist commitment from individuals and agencies. The safe space is an opportunity for self-challenge, ongoing learning and reflection, which in turn provides an opportunity for writing a reflective piece on your own anti-racist practice for your [Social Work England registration](#).

Positive themes within feedback (2021) include how participants ❖ Really enjoyed the themes / subject areas ❖ Found the space helpful i.e. 'open & reflective' and ❖ Really liked the delivery approach. **We want to continue building on this!**

When co-facilitators met back in September '21, the following were some suggestions to focus on once the current programme comes to an end (March '22): ❖ Assessment methods / training that are not eurocentric ❖ Addressing institutional / systemic racism ❖ Is it 'ethical' to withhold a service from someone who is overtly racist? ❖ Good practice examples - How organisations have tackled & implemented anti-racist practice ❖ How do we as SWs work with families for whom English is an additional or second language? And ❖ Class & race: Marxism. We also discussed increasing the frequency of the groups to monthly, something we are extremely keen to do.

So, do you have any thoughts, suggestions or ideas you would like to contribute? Have you thought about coming along but unsure what to expect? Please contact [josie.newton@developingtogetherswtp.org.uk](mailto:josie.newton@developingtogetherswtp.org.uk)

## Adult Direct Work Kitbags



Following on from the successful creation and delivery of kitbags across the Teaching Partnership, developed by Sue Lansley (formerly Social Work Lead, Teaching Partnership) and Anna Holland (NSPCC) in supporting social workers and practitioners with their work with children and young people, we are keen to look at an equivalent for those working with adults.



The childrens' kitbags contained helpful tools (e.g. All About Me Family Counters, Paper dolls and Story cubes etc.) that support social workers and practitioners in their important direct work. The kitbags and associated training was very popular, well received and, it is hoped, effective in increasing your confidence and creativity in the vital work you do.



We are pleased to announce that we are now turning to tools in supporting your direct work with adults who have mental health problems and / or Dementia.



We are at the very early stages of this project, identifying key individuals, interest and working groups who have the skills, expertise and knowledge to develop this adults kitbag. We have met with colleagues at Kingston University and started thinking about what aspects might be helpful with direct work e.g. supporting communication, assessing capacity and having a person-centred approach. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please do contact [josie.newton@developingtogetherswtp.org.uk](mailto:josie.newton@developingtogetherswtp.org.uk) and look out for further updates on this exciting project!



## Impact of recent child deaths on the profession

Just before the festive period, the sad news of the death of two children, Arthur Labinjo-Hughes and Star Hobson, were national headlines. Even though these children died at the hands of their family members, these tragic deaths did provoke some hostility towards the social work profession in the press. The press coverage was not as hostile as in previous years, however there were reports of some individual social workers being verbally abused in the communities where they worked.

It is even more important at times like this to seek support from colleagues and managers to support mental health and resilience. We need to stand up for our profession and be proud of all that we achieve. We often have a positive impact on the families that we work with, as demonstrated by the recent reflections at the Annual Teaching Partnership Social Work Celebration & Awards Ceremony. A person of lived experience endorsed one of the nominations for the social worker that was supporting her family. It was wonderful to hear her talk about the positive difference this social worker had made to her and her family.

We all have stories like that within our teams, so focus on the positives that we have in supporting people of lived experience and let's keep supporting each other during the rest of 2022.



**“They looked to each other for support, for strength, and at times, motivation, to remember why and for whom they lived.”**

**– Sage Steadman, Upon Destiny's Song**

## Step Up To Social Work Cohort 7



The Teaching Partnership, along with Achieving For Children, London Borough of Sutton and Kingston University, would like to wish all students on the Step Up To Social Work Fast Track Post Graduate Diploma course the very best of luck as they start their exciting journey to becoming a social worker. We would also like to extend a warm welcome to the students as they embark on this journey and remind them that the Teaching Partnership is here to support along the way. The intense, 14 month full-time programme, combining study at Kingston University and placements in the local authority settings, will award graduates a Post Graduate Diploma in Social Work and equip them with the skills and knowledge necessary to register as a social worker and we are very excited to be able to be a part of, and support the students throughout the programme.

*Good Luck!*





## Peer QA of Placement Reports: Panel Summary of Learnings November 2021

Following the successful first Peer Quality Assurance (QA) of Placement Reports Panel (Pilot) in June 2021, the second panel was held in November 2021. The panel was again chaired by Dale Van Graan from Kingston University and had representation from Merton Adults, Croydon 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 second 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 February 2022 after which further learnings will be shared.

## Social Worker Wellbeing Project



One of the bids that we submitted to the DfE for their Continuous Improvement funding is focused on Social Worker Wellbeing. As part of this, we had our successful and well-received Emotional Resilience and Wellbeing Conference in November, three focus groups facilitated by our colleagues at Self Care Psychology, and have had our website updated to have a section for a resource library.

We would like to reach out to all Social Work colleagues to share with us some resources that you have found useful to support wellbeing, especially over the course of the pandemic and virtual working. This could be resources that have supported your own wellbeing, supported your team's wellbeing, or resources that your managers/organisation have shared with you that have made a difference.

We are also interested in colleagues who have expertise that might be interested in writing/putting together some bespoke resources on wellbeing for the resource library. You would need to be able to do so by the **end of February**. We have some funding that would enable us to pay your partner organisation/team for the development of such resources; the amount would depend on the topic and size of the resource being offered.

These will help to support your colleagues!

Please contact us at: [admin@developingtogetherswtp.org.uk](mailto:admin@developingtogetherswtp.org.uk)



Department  
for Education

## National Assessment and Accreditation System (NAAS)



As recently reported by [Community Care](#), no more social workers will be tested under national assessment and accreditation system (NAAS), which will be replaced by a scheme providing a 'better experience for social workers'.

It plans to introduce a replacement accreditation programme later this year, designed to be "more sustainable" and deliver "a better overall experience for social workers" that was "more meaningful" for them and employers. This is likely to be based on remote testing, rather than the in-person model delivered through NAAS assessment centres.

The decision to end the controversial scheme was welcomed by the Association of Directors of Children's Services and UNISON, with the latter saying that it had "needlessly piled extra pressure on social workers".

The Department for Education (DfE) said it remained committed to assessing and accrediting social workers against the post-qualifying standards (formerly the knowledge and skills statements) for child and family practitioners and practice supervisors, as under NAAS, and encouraged the 69 local authorities that had piloted NAAS to continue to embed the post-qualifying standards (PQS) into their learning cultures.

As a Partnership, we remain committed to doing just that as we continue to invest in our Assessed and Supported Year in Employment (ASYE) programmes, Early Professional Development Framework and Career Pathways & CPD Framework. More details on our continuing professional development (CPD) offer and associated frameworks can be found on our [website](#).





## 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

- [Domestic abuse and child protection – thinking and doing differently](#) - a suite of resources intended to support new conceptual and practice developments when responding to families where there is Domestic Violence and or Abuse (DVA).
- [Liberty Protection Safeguards: 16-17 year olds and deprivations of liberty](#) - a recorded webinar on the new legal framework, the Liberty Protection Safeguards, which will govern deprivations of liberty for 16-17 year olds where their care or treatment arrangements deprive them of their liberty.

### Blogs

- [Supporting carers at risk of suicide](#)
- [Using co-production to generate value](#)
- [Communities as a resource to support social care and welfare](#)
- [A strategic approach to facilitating community growth](#)
- [Reflective, relational leadership and management](#)



# DEVELOPING TOGETHER

SOCIAL WORK  
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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.