



DEVELOPING TOGETHER

SOCIAL WORK
TEACHING PARTNERSHIP

Newsletter | Issue 21 | Date: 31.1.23 |

Welcome to January's newsletter and wishing everyone a Happy 2023!

As a very busy and productive 2022 came to an end with a bit of well-earned rest for the team over the Christmas and New Year period, the new year has continued to keep us busy! We have a wide range of projects that are currently taking place and planning for future programmes and events, including one as part of Social Work Week 2023! We have both a farewell and a welcome to update you on, amongst everything else.

Hopefully the new year brings the feeling of a fresh start for many, and hope all of the new year's resolutions are going successfully so far! Ours as a team was the following: "Let our New Year's resolution be this: we will be there for one another as fellow members of humanity, in the finest sense of the word." Goran Persson.

We hope you enjoy the latest iteration of our newsletter.

The TP Team

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CPD Offer 2022-23

If you work for one of our primary partner agencies, 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 at admin@developingtogetherswtp.org.uk for a copy directly. You can also [click here](#) to sign up for CPD Updates going forward.

The brochure cover features the organization's logo on the left, the title 'DEVELOPING TOGETHER SOCIAL WORK TEACHING PARTNERSHIP' in the center, and the 'Accredited cpd' logo on the right. Below the title, it states 'Continuing Professional Development Offer April 2022 - March 2023' and 'Version 1: 30.3.2022'. At the bottom, there are four small photographs: a woman and a man at a table, two children working together, a woman with a child in a blue hammock, and a woman with a child and a teddy bear.

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

Training for External Colleagues - Practice Educator/Onsite Supervisor Provision



A Strengths Based Approach to Supporting Students' Development

[7 February 2023, 2 - 4:30pm](#)

Supervision Skills to Enable Reflection and Analysis

[20 February 2023, 9:30am - 12:30pm](#)

Promoting the Learning of Students using Direct Work Tools

[7 March 2023, 2 - 4:30pm](#)

Onsite Supervisor Training Programme

[14 February, 1:30 - 4:30pm AND 22 February, 1:30 - 4:30pm AND 9 March, 10am - 1pm](#)

We also have a full brochure for external colleagues, which can be found [here](#).

N.B. If you work for one of our primary or secondary partner agencies* or are part of the Central Bedfordshire Teaching Partnership, 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.

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

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



A Reflection on Partnership Working to Address Social Work Student Placement Assessment and Completion during COVID-19

Our colleagues at Kingston University's Department of Social Work and Social Care, Carol Dicken, Dale van Graan and Jane Mathew-Byrne, have recently been published in the International Journal of Practice-based Learning in Health and Social Care.

Their article, '*A Reflection on Partnership Working to Address Social Work Student Placement Assessment and Completion during COVID-19*', reflects on the creativity and collaboration of the Developing Together Teaching Partnership, comprising Kingston University and eleven employer agencies. It outlines the way that guidance, procedures, processes and resources were devised and implemented to enable students to continue to learn and be assessed in practice settings. It pays particular attention to the way in which the existing partnership enabled a co-ordinated and swift response to the crisis, which took account of all stakeholders' views and the university's underlying principle of 'no student being disadvantaged' through the restrictions imposed on placements by COVID-19.

In the acknowledgements, the authors thanked students, those providing and supporting placements, tutors and teaching partnership colleagues, for their creativity and willingness to work with uncertainty.

You can read the full article [here](#).

Farewell and Good Luck!



A message from Dale van Graan, Senior Lecturer at Kingston University and former PE Consultant with the Partnership:

After many years at Kingston University, I shall be leaving my permanent post at the end of February, in order to make a few changes in my personal life. There are far too many lovely people to whom I would like to say 'See you later', that I thought it best to include a message in the newsletter.

Having myself completed the practice education course here, I started teaching at KU in the mid 2000s as an hourly paid lecturer, co-teaching on the PEPS programme and doing the MA PETHS course.

Over time that role became permanent, almost full time and, eventually, included leadership of that programme, amongst other responsibilities. I have had so many opportunities to work with and support learners on the BA Social Work and the SW Apprenticeship Degree, as well as post grad learners and those supporting and assessing practice learning-practice educators, practice assessors, onsite supervisors, tutors, workforce leads. I have loved mentoring university colleagues and new lecturers.

I also had an interesting and challenging time developing the Lead Chief Assessor role, with Hayley Palfreyman and our delivery partners, during the NAAS years. There were quite a few practitioners and supervisors from our region who gained accreditation during that period!

One of the most exciting and satisfying periods was my short time as PE Consultant in the Teaching Partnership. This brought me into close collaborative contact with so many more practitioners in practice and gave me opportunity to contribute to resource development in the region. We were a small, but 'perfectly formed' team and we had a lot of fun, dare I say, 'making it up as we went along'!

So, I have very mixed feelings about taking this next step, but I keep reminding myself and others that I am not retiring or leaving permanently, just changing the nature of our relationship. I shall continue to practice as an independent and so know I shall still see so many of you, in different forums, going forwards, and that makes me happy. I do love being a teacher and enabler of learning and nothing makes me more satisfied than seeing a learner reach, or, even better, exceed, their goals. So that is what I have to continue to do.

Thank you to all the wonderful learners and colleagues who have been part of my journey thus far.



Job Vacancies - Sub Regional Assessor (End Point Assessment)

Kingston University's Department of Social Work and Social Care is recruiting to the new role of End Point Assessors on the Social Work Degree Apprenticeship course. The role will be part-time (3 days) from March to August 2023.

- You must be a registered social worker and qualified practice educator and have at least two years' experience in assessing student social workers and/or newly qualified social workers on the ASYE programme.
- Assessors with experience of marking for a university is preferable.
- You should be IT proficient and have experience of Microsoft Teams and working online.

Interviews will be held in person on **Tuesday 7th March 2023**.

For informal enquiries please contact Kathleen Henderson, EPA Lead on k.henderson@kingston.ac.uk

Full details can be found [here](#).

The application form can be found [here](#). You will need to log in or register.

Kingston University/Teaching Partnership
Practice Education Conference
5th July 2023, 11am-4pm



Please save the date for the annual TP/KU Practice Education Conference planned for **5th July 2023, 11am-4pm**, held in collaboration with Kingston University, location TBC.

This will involve a series of sessions to celebrate the work of all those who are engaged in developing social work learners across the partnership. This event will be relevant to Practice Educators , On-Site Supervisors , Tutors , Practice Assessors , Learning and Development Leads, employer partners and anyone else engaged or interested in developing social work practitioners.

More information will be shared shortly.



This is a great opportunity for someone interested in pursuing a PhD (Topic: Social work practitioners' formulation of knowledge to inform engagement with service users). More details and how to apply can be found at Kingston University's Graduate School studentship site at [PhD studentships for 2023 - Research degrees - Kingston University London](#).

Applicants should follow the standard online application process – they should check the Graduate School advert on the University webpage (see above) for specific requirements for a studentship application.

The closing date for applications is **8 March 2023**.

If you would like to know more contact Professor Wilson Muleya (W.Muleya@kingston.ac.uk).



DfE Continuous Improvement Projects - Updates



The Teaching Partnership has again secured over £100,000 of additional government funding from the Department for Education to deliver three new continuous improvement projects for 2022/23.

This time, the projects we have been granted funding for are:

1. **Independent Clinical Supervision** - we are offering all social workers working for primary partner agencies who are in their second or third year of practice access to individual or group supervision with an independent clinical psychologist. This will take place over a 6 month period, until March/April 2023, after which the impact will be evaluated and a decision made as to whether to extend this provision. Sessions have been well attended, with 50 year 2 EPD social workers having taken part in this offer of either group, or 1 2 1 clinical supervision sessions so far, with an attendance rate of over 90%!
2. **Autism Training** - Sharon Evans, TP Lead Practice Consultant has developed new autism awareness training, tailored to social workers who do not work in specialist Learning and Disability teams. The training has been co-developed by a team of experts in this field, as well as input from People of Lived Experience, to support multi-disciplinary working and improved outcomes for children and families directly affected by autism. The training is also being supported by a toolkit developed by the National Autistic Society. The first face to face training pilot cohort was held on 19th January and feedback from social workers who attended has been overwhelmingly positive.
3. **Practice Education Consultation & Strategy** - In collaboration with Interface and 4 other Teaching Partnerships, 2 Practice Education consultation events (one in the North and one in the South of the country) were held earlier this month. These events brought together key stakeholders from across the Teaching Partnerships, to discuss challenges facing practice education in social work and agree a way forward. We are now awaiting the key recommendations from each event to be drawn together by Interface, which will then be presented to respective Teaching Partnership Strategic Boards (across the national network of TPs) for feedback, before a resulting strategy will then be presented to the social work regulator with a call to action.

For more information, or to request a copy of our successful bids, please contact admin@developingtogetherswtp.org.uk

Peer QA Panel Update

The fifth Peer Quality Assurance (QA) of placements reports panel was held in November 2022. The panel was chaired by Josie Newton, Senior Lecturer in Social Work, Kingston University, and had representation from Merton Adults, Merton Children and London Borough of Sutton Children and Adults. The group actively sampled and reviewed a range of Placement Reports from contrasting organisations and summarised individual feedback for the PEs. Following this 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 March 2023, after which further learnings will be shared.

Emotional Resilience & Wellbeing in Social Work Conference 2022



This year's annual Wellbeing conference was opened with a keynote from Inside Out Well-being on 'Bringing Your Whole (Authentic) Self to Work'.

Colleagues had the opportunity to attend workshops on 'The Importance of Humour in Social Work' led by our very own Lead Practice Consultant, Sharon Evans; Guided Meditation, led by Sarah Jane Dennis, Crystal Healer, Reiki Healer, and Teacher; and Compassion Fatigue (and how to avoid it) led by Sue Connell, ASYE Manager, Senior Lecturer, Teaching Consultant & Sub Regional Assessor, Wandsworth Children.

Following these workshops, colleagues came back together for a creative activity, led by Sue Lansley, Senior Lecturer at Kingston University (and creative guru!) to create some appreciation or gratitude cards for themselves or to give to others.

The feedback was very positive, with attendees agreeing it had been a much-needed event to remind themselves of prioritising wellbeing, and how to be their authentic selves.

A huge thank you to all facilitators who supported the event and everyone who attended for taking part in the day!





TP Annual Social Work Awards & Celebration Event 7th December 2022



Thank you to everyone who attended the Teaching Partnership's annual Celebration Event & Awards Ceremony. We hope everyone found it a positive end to the year and enjoyed having a reflective space to feel proud of the social work profession and all the great work you do every day for children, families and vulnerable adults!

We were able to hear about the experiences and Social Work journeys of a few colleagues at different stages of their careers: Dawn Secker, Interim Assistant Director Adult Social Care at the Royal Borough of Kingston; Dermot Brady, Senior Lecturer at Kingston University; and Verity Marklew, Wandsworth Children, who has recently completed her Assessed and Supported Year in Employment (ASYE).

This was followed by a video montage and a sing-a-long to Curtis Mayfield's 'Move On Up' before we closed with an Awards Ceremony and final reflections from Sharon Evans, Lead Partnership Practice Consultant. A huge well done to all the winners and special mentions as well as to everyone who was nominated. All those shortlisted, special mentions and winners have received a certificate and voucher. Also a big thank you to those who took the time to make nominations and our shortlisting panels for making the final decisions. We hope seeing the joy and pride of those who received an award made it worthwhile!

Please [see here](#) for the full write up of the event, as well as the video montage and Awards Ceremony presentation.

PRIZES

The winner and special mention in each category were presented with their award at the virtual ceremony.

Winners received:

- £50 Love2Shop voucher
- Certificate of achievement

Special Mentions received:

- £25 Love2Shop voucher
- Certificate of achievement

All those shortlisted received:

- £10 Love2Shop voucher
- Certificate of achievement

Social Work Week 2023 Conference

Think Family: Trauma Throughout the Life Course

Social Work Week 2023 will take place from Monday 20 to Friday 24 March 2023, and will aim to bring people together to learn, connect, and influence change. The key themes for this year are:

- **Learn:** the breadth of social work: lived, learned and professional experiences
- **Connect:** social work identity and sharing best practice
- **Influence:** looking back at the past 3 years, and looking forward to what's next for social work in England

We are delighted to have an event feature in Social Work England's programme of sector-led events. It will be held on **22 March at Kingston University, Kingston Hill Campus, 9.30am to 4pm**. The day will explore the impact of trauma at all stages in the life course through speakers, workshops and activities. It will be of interest to social workers from both children's services and adult services as well as other social care professionals, social work students and people with lived experience.

The event is already sold out, but feel free to register for the waitlist, via [this Eventbrite Link](#) as spaces may become available.

For Social Work England's programme of events, see here:

- [headline sessions](#)
- [sector-led sessions and events](#)



Welcome!



A huge welcome to Ulrike Nebel, who has joined the Teaching Partnership Team as a Practice Consultant. Ulrike has been a social worker since 2004 and is a qualified Approved Mental Health Professional (AMHP) and Best Interest Assessor (BIA). She has a particular interest in, and extensive experience of, working with adults with severe and enduring mental health problems. She feels extremely passionate about social work and the difference good social work practice can make.

Ulrike is a qualified Practice Educator, ASYE Assessor, a trained Action Learning Set Facilitator and Coach/Mentor, and is currently studying for a Masters in Advanced Social Work at Kingston University. She is also a Teaching Consultant at Kingston University and continues to work 3 days a week in the Royal Borough of Kingston Adult Services.

Ulrike has been committed to her own professional development throughout her career, and in the most recent few years has proactively sought to take advantage of many opportunities offered through the Teaching Partnership. This has included accessing considerable CPD, presenting at Teaching Partnership and Kingston University events and conferences, successfully applying to become a Teaching Consultant, undertaking the Coaching & Mentoring post qualifying module and training as an Action Learning Set facilitator.

Ulrike can be contacted at: ulrike.nebel@developingtogetherswtp.org.uk



Inspection of Wandsworth local authority children's services



Wandsworth Children's Services have been rated 'good' by Ofsted. The report says that the Council:

- ✓ Is committed to improving the lives of children
- ✓ Puts children at the heart of everything they do
- ✓ Gives the right support at the right time

The report, published Friday 13th January, follows a visit from Ofsted inspectors in November who said that good progress was being made and children and families were really benefiting from the support and help that they receive. They also praised the culture within Wandsworth and the voice of the child being heard, included and taken into account when making key decisions.

Louise Jones, Principal Social Worker for Children, said: "Proud is an understatement. The sheer hard work and tenacity to be better and become the best for our children, families and communities is in place!"

A big well done to all our colleagues in Wandsworth who we know have worked tirelessly for this result. You can read the full Ofsted report [here](#).



The Teaching Partnership is pleased to announce that we have once again been awarded funding, in partnership with Kingston University, Achieving for Children, Croydon Children, Merton Children, Sutton Children, Surrey Children and Wandsworth Children, to deliver Cohort 8 of Step up To Social Work. This comes following a successful first year of delivering the programme to Cohort 7 students, who are all set to graduate in March 2023.

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. Students will receive a bursary of £19,833 over the duration of the programme to support them whilst in training. Trainees will commence on the programme in January 2024 and finish in March 2025 and we are very excited to once again be able to support a cohort of students throughout the programme.

Applications will open on 17th February 2023. For more information about applying please visit the Step Up [website](#).



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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

- [Hybrid working and wellbeing: Exploring findings from the SWORD survey](#)
- [Supporting difficult conversations in social care](#)
- [Working effectively with men](#)
- [New mapping of services for parents who have experienced recurrent care proceedings](#)
- [10,000 voices Bright Spots report: What is important to children and young people in care?](#)
- [Social work and child protection beyond the COVID-19 pandemic: Key challenges and good practice](#)

Blogs, news & views

- [Supporting the use of case law in social care practice](#)
- [The impact of COVID-19 on child protection and digital social care](#)
- [Transforming adult social care with digital technology](#)
- [Rethinking Domestic Abuse in Child Protection \(R-DAC\): What does the research tell us?](#)
- [Radical Safeguarding – an anti-oppressive perspective on responding to homelessness](#)

Triennial analysis of serious case reviews 2022

RiP have put together a series of new [open-access resources](#) to support professionals in social work, education, police, criminal justice and health in learning from the analysis of serious cases. These are based on learning from the [ninth and final periodic review of serious case reviews](#), which looked at 235 serious case reviews relating to incidents between April 2017 and September 2019. They can be used in self-directed, team-based, or organisational continuing professional development.



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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.