



# DEVELOPING TOGETHER

## SOCIAL WORK TEACHING PARTNERSHIP

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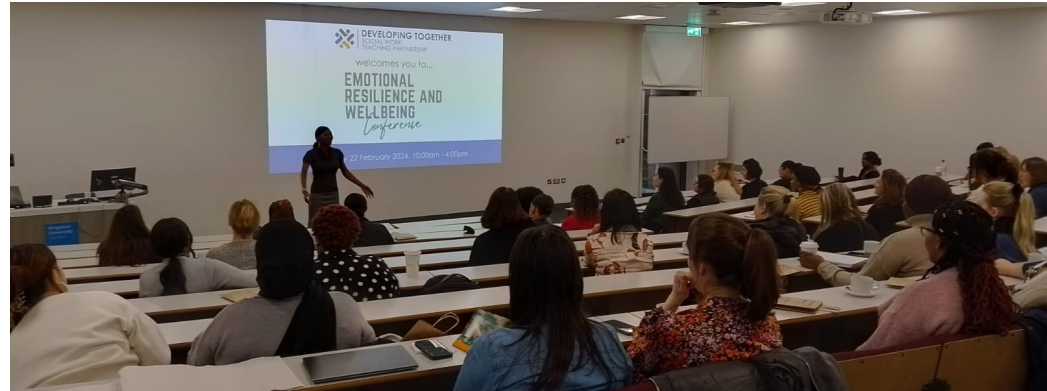


## Emotional Resilience and Wellbeing Conference 2024

On the 22nd of February, the Teaching Partnership hosted the 5th edition of the Emotional Resilience and Wellbeing in Social Work Conference at Kingston University.

The conference had the highest attendance so far with 57 attendees across all partner organisations.

Throughout the day, attendees were able to enjoy a Keynote by Paris Bartholomew on trauma and resilience, two creative workshops for their wellbeing, an aromatherapy pop-up and a session on neurodivergence and burnout by Aga Buckley.



The keynote from Paris was very impactful and her personal experiences and positive outlook really connected with attendees. She talked about the importance of self knowledge in order to be able to identify when things are not going well for us, and the importance of investing time into doing the things that build resilience.



One of the workshops was Creative Journaling, with Sarah Hanlon. This went into the benefits of channelling emotions into journaling, as well as some different methods of journaling. Participants tried their hand at a short writing exercise, and could see how this could help their wellbeing when done regularly, or when they are experiencing stress or sadness.

## Emotional Resilience and Wellbeing Conference 2024



Our Mantra Pebble workshop was well-received as a mindful activity to combat the daily stressors of social work, and enabled many to unleash unknown creative talents! We created beautiful pebbles with inspiring messages to keep us going when we might have a tough time- and we shared kindness by creating additional pebbles for others, including those social workers who did not attend the workshop.



The third workshop was Hand Embroidery led by Emelye Offin and Ella Halepota, two student social workers in Richmond. During the workshop, attendees were provided with all materials to create a small embroidery image as a calming, creative and mindful activity. The activity also allowed for conversations and networking amongst colleagues.

To finish the day, Aga Buckley offered insights on neurodivergence within Social Work and attendees were able to ask questions and have further discussions on themes of their interest.





**SAVE THE DATE - July 10th 9:30am-4pm**

**Practice Education Conference 2024**

**'Thriving placements: the importance of Courageous Conversations'.**

Throughout this day we will have a keynote speaker and a series of workshops exploring how courageous conversations can lead to better outcomes for students and the children, young people and adults they work with.

Attendees will have to opportunity to develop their knowledge and skills, share good practice, network with colleagues and come away with practical ways to approach courageous conversations.

This conference 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 supporting Social Work students.

In conjunction with Kingston University, this event aims to celebrate the work of all those engaged in developing social work learners in the region and to explore their contributions to building learning communities.

Full agenda and details will be circulated closer to the time.

Kingston University, Kingston Hill Campus - Business School

## CALLOUT

Are you a PE, PEPS trainee or OSS that would be interested in facilitating a workshop at our PE conference?

Would you like to share your experience, knowledge and skills of having courageous conversations within student placements?

No previous experience of presenting is required, we can support anyone interested with this.

If interested, please email us at [admin@developingtogetherswtp.org.uk](mailto:admin@developingtogetherswtp.org.uk).



## Social Work Week



On March 19th, we celebrated World Social Work Day, and our Teaching Consultant Ulrike Nebel shared a few words to celebrate all Social Workers and say a big “Thank You!!!” to every single one of you.

*You deserve to be celebrated for all the amazing work you do, for all the hours you spend supporting families and people who need it most; and fighting for their rights and social justice in often the most difficult circumstances, never losing sight of your social work values.*

*This year it will be 20 years since I qualified as a Social Worker, and I am not going to say it has always been an easy journey, because I think most of you would know that I would be lying 😊. But what has kept me in this job, despite budget cuts and cuts to services and a very difficult political climate, despite all the difficulties we encounter; is the knowledge that we make a difference.*

*Until last year, I had been working within adult mental health, having to make very difficult decisions at times, especially as an AMHP. But it is the people who come up to you, sometimes years after you have worked with them, to let you know they finally passed their driving licence test after many psychiatric hospital admissions, remembering that you encouraged them and gave them hope.*

*The families who thank you for everything you have done, and who recognise that you have gone above and beyond for their loved ones.*

*And last but not least, it is the amazing colleagues who make a difference (because most social workers are amazing people 😊) who recognise your passion and your hard work; who despite all the trauma and difficulties we experience on a daily basis share a supportive ear and make us smile at the end of a hard day.*

## Social Work Week



*Having recently completed my MA in Advanced Social Work at Kingston University I now work part-time in learning and development and the other part as a Practice Consultant for the Developing Together Social Work Teaching Partnership. I am an active Practice Educator and Practice Assessor, I am working with newly qualified Social Workers as an ASYEco-ordinator and I am delivering workshops for Practice Educators.*

*I am very grateful to be able to support a new generation of social workers and practice educators, witnessing the passion, commitment and dedication of both social work students and experienced practitioners to social work and to our values, which really provides me with hope for a better future for people with lived experience.*

*All of this fits in well with the theme for this year “Buen Vivir: shared future for transformative change” with the International Federation of Social Workers stating that “this theme serves as a timely reminder of the transformative role social workers play in driving positive change and fostering communities that thrive on mutual respect and sustainability.”*

*Our role is very much transformative, and we should take a moment to remind ourselves of this, and remind ourselves why we have come into social work, our values that shape our practice, and most importantly remind ourselves of our positive impact and the difference we make in the most difficult circumstances.*

*So, although I believe Social Workers should be celebrated every day and not just on one day a year, I hope today provides an opportunity for all Social Workers to be proud of all we do and to celebrate the difference we make.*

Let's celebrate World Social Work Day!



## Social Work Week w/c 18.3.24



Social Work England delivered over 20 sessions during their annual social work week

These sessions were co-produced by Social Work England and those working across the Sector. They also featured those with lived and learned experience. The sessions ranged from topics such as the social work supervision standards, promoting cultural sensitivity and diversity in social work, The voice of lived experience in social work practice, the social work workforce 2023 research findings, making the invisible visible: improving the approach to equality and diversity in safeguarding reviews for adults and children, and Practice Education in England, a national scoping review.

Sharon Evans, Lead Partnership Practice Consultant attended some of the sessions and has shared that this was a great opportunity to hear about new research, and explore and hear from colleagues about developing good practice, and hear the views of people of lived experience who shared their views about social work practice.

These sessions can be utilised for recording social work CPD in relation to renewal of registration. All the sessions will be available on Social Work England Youtube channel over the coming weeks, some time in April.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b-XICI02VRA>

# Neurodiversity Celebration Week



Neurodiversity celebration week took place during the week of 18.3.24. There were 24 free zoom webinar events across the week, featuring professional speakers and experts by experience, sharing their knowledge and research across the week.

“Neurodiversity Celebration Week is a global celebration of neurodiverse individuals that aims to raise awareness of, and challenge stereotypes about, a range of neurodevelopment and learning disabilities, and bring about worldwide neurodiversity acceptance, equality and inclusion in schools and workplaces.”

Sharon Evans Lead Partnership Practice Consultant attended some of these sessions, ranging from “The Experiences of Neurodivergent Women and Girls,” “Neurodivergent & LGBTQIA: The Double Rainbow Intersection,” “ Neurodivergence isn’t a Mental Health Problem” and “Late Discovered Autism and Menopause”. The events were so informative with panels sharing their own neurodivergent experiences and current research which is being developed across the world in this space. It was a privilege to hear the stories of experts by experience and the knowledge they shared will be invaluable to improve practice.

The website has various toolkits, resources, interviews and recordings of the sessions which can be accessed here:

<https://www.neurodiversityweek.com>



## April - Stress Awareness Month



As an annual event that's been observed since 1992, it serves as a gateway to open up conversations about stress, signpost people to the right support and help us prioritise our mental health.

This year's theme is: Little by little, a little becomes a lot...

The Stress Management Society seeks to emphasise how even the smallest steps taken each day towards self-care and stress reduction can yield significant improvements in mental health over time.

We encourage you to focus on making manageable adjustments to your daily routine. While the impact of small actions on their own may seem little, the cumulative effects of these habits can end up being profound!

- ❖ CONNECT WITH SOMEONE
- ❖ BREATHE DEEP
- ❖ MOVE IN YOUR OWN WAY
- ❖ PRIORITISE SLEEP
- ❖ PRACTICE MINDFULNESS

[Find free resources from the Stress Management Society here, such as the Little by Little Journal, a Daily Wellness Challenge, a Guide to De-Stress and much more.](#)



## The Black Voice of Social Work Discussion Groups- Co-facilitators needed!



Our last discussion group of this CPD cycle focused on 'Intergenerational Trauma' supported by co-facilitator Anneta Pinto-Young and TP practice consultant Ulrike Nebel which resulted in interesting and thought provoking discussions.

These discussions however also very much highlighted that racism continues to exist in all shapes and forms, and that all of us need to take active action to reach out to colleagues to have those important conversations and share our thoughts and our learning to fight racism together.

We are currently planning for the next cycle of discussion groups and very much hope we will see you at the next session! Dates will be announced in the near future.

**!We are still looking for new co-facilitators to join!** We are looking for more Black\* colleagues to join the group - we strongly feel that the more diverse our group is, the more interesting our reflection points would be. This would allow us to have discussions on new and important issues, ensure that there is a facilitator in each breakout room to aid the discussion, and will ensure continued sustainability of the group.

You do not have to have experience of delivery, and this will support you to develop your delivery skills. The main commitments would be:

- To lead on one session per year on a relevant topic of your choice - 2 or 3 slides maximum, to keep to 10 minutes
- To attend the other sessions if you are available, and facilitate breakout room discussions, including taking notes on key themes to feed back

Please discuss with your manager and TP lead in the first instance, but anyone who is interested should contact us at:

[admin@developingtogetherswtp.org.uk](mailto:admin@developingtogetherswtp.org.uk)

*\* Please note that by 'Black', we mean anyone who identifies as a person of colour.*

Please continue having discussions within your organisations about racism and share the links for the groups!





Partnership Practice Consultant Ulrike Nebel attended 'Equity at the heart of the ASYE' event provided by Skills for Care in February 2024.

### Summary:

Following feedback there have been minor amendments to the ASYE documentation, including the guidance and individual templates. Refreshed guidance will be available on the Skills for Care Website in April 2024.

There have been discussion around changes to the ASYE for children and family social workers. The development of an Early Career Framework is currently being explored further through early adopters of the programme- please see the Department for Education Website for further information (expression of interest deadline for the second cohort of early adopters is the 4th April 2024 <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-to-join-the-early-adopter-programme#about-the-programme>)

The main focus of the event was to share thoughts on **developing organisational EDI frameworks for the ASYE programme**. The aim of a tailored ASYE EDI framework would be to ensure that the programme is tailored to each newly qualified social worker as an individual and to ensure they are not treated unfairly or discriminated against so they are enabled to reach their full potential.

Discussion highlighted the **importance of supporting and upskilling ASYE assessors** to enable them to identify and address individual support needs of NQSWs. We are aware that several partners have already expressed an interest in ASYE assessor workshops and we are developing plans to provide this within the near future- please look out for the CPD brochure for details.

We would also be interested to hear from any partner organisations who have already implemented an ASYE EDI Framework so we can share good practice and ideas across the Teaching Partnership. (please email [admin@developingtogetherswtp.org.uk](mailto:admin@developingtogetherswtp.org.uk))

## ASYE Moderation



Following confirmation from partners at the strategic board meeting on 31st January 2024 the Teaching Partnership team has agreed to take on the role of coordinating external ASYE Moderation panels for all partners.

This role was previously carried out by Skills for Care who are no longer in a position to continue.

As outlined by Skills for Care the external moderation process is mandatory for ASYE programmes in adult services and good practice for ASYE programmes in child and family services.

External moderation supports national consistency. It also generates feedback/quality assurance evidence for participating partners that they can use in the development of their annual action plan for the continuous development of their programme.

The external moderation partnership scrutinises the decision-making of an internal panel to ensure that:

- the employer decisions are accurate, valid, robust and sufficient
- the employer is providing the expected support and assessment processes.

All participating partners are invited to share 10% sample portfolios of average and good assessment outcomes from each ASYE programme. These are reviewed by the external moderation partnership, along with fails and marginal decisions.

Partners have been provided with guidance ahead of the first panel taking place on 29th March 2024.

Further information can be obtained from Skills for Care:

<https://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/Regulated-professions/Social-work/ASYE/Moderation.aspx>



## National Organisation of Practice Teachers

- Annual Conference is taking place on 25 June 2024 - 9.30 to 16.30
- Venue Anglia Ruskin University, Peterborough
- Book using this link  
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/nopt-conference-2024-tickets-853453772207?utm-campaign=social&utm-content=attendeeshare&utm-medium=discovery&utm-term=listing&utm-source=cp&aff=ebdsshcopyurl>
- Its an opportunity to meet Practice Educators from across the country and share knowledge and experiences



National Organisation for Practice Teaching England





## Free Webinar run by the Sexuality and Social Work Special Interest Group

*Towards Equitable Futures: Reimagining Trans Health and Social Care*

25 April 2024, 12.30 – 14:00 BST online – book [here](#)

*This is a free webinar: please share with your networks*

This event explores current issues in health and social care settings for trans and gender diverse people. In view of the enduring inequities experienced by the community, panellists will examine how we can build a future in which people of all genders have equitable access to and experiences in health and social care. A Q&A session will follow the presentations.



Free Live Webinar

## Recognising and Responding to Children's Disclosures of Sexual Abuse

**Date:** Wednesday, 8 May 2024

**Time:** 10am to 12pm

Sparked by recommendations made in the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) report, this webinar aims to **give practitioners the confidence to recognise disclosures of child sexual abuse and respond in a way that centres the needs of the child**, prioritising keeping them safe and protecting them from further harm. If you work with children and/or young people and want to develop confidence in your ability to recognise and positively respond to possible disclosures of child sexual abuse, this webinar is for you.

For full details, speaker information, and to register a place, [click here](#).

careKNOWLEDGE

Supporting workforce development  
for adult and children's social care



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

### Articles & videos

- [Innovation, Contextual Safeguarding and trauma-informed practice](#)
- [Measuring caseloads, building resilience and preventing burnout](#)

### Resources

- [Living in the place we call home](#)
- [Leading the lives we want to live](#)
- [Building effective organisational resilience](#)
- [More resources, better used](#)
- [Sharing power as equals](#)
- [Supporting neurodiversity in our organisations](#)
- [Neurodiversity in the social work profession](#)
- [The power of co-production communities](#)
- [Diaspora dialogues: Celebrating the contributions of overseas social workers](#)
- [Addressing systemic racism with anti-racist systems leadership](#)

## Thank you and Farewell



Dear partnership colleagues,

I just wanted to say a huge thank you to everyone who has been so supportive over my last 3 years working with the TP Team, especially over the last year as my role changed to take on Pip's maternity cover! I have had the privilege of working with so many lovely colleagues across partners and the university, as well as students and will remember my experiences fondly.

Do find me on LinkedIn if you would like to keep in touch!

Take care and all the best :)

Taz



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SOCIAL WORK  
TEACHING PARTNERSHIP

**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.