



Update on College Developments

9 May 2011 – Wider Reference Group

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The scope and impact of Social Work

There are currently **94,000 registered social workers** in England.

In 2009 / 2010:

- **Almost 1.78 million people received adult social services support**, including residential care and assessment of need. *(NHS Community Care statistics)*
- **Almost 607,000 children were referred to children's social care services.** *(The Munro Review of Child Protection)*
- **Over 382,000 children were recorded as receiving social care support.** *(Provisional figures from the Children in Need census published by the Department for Education)*

The key values of social work

Social work seeks to enhance:

- the human, legal and civil rights of the child and adult
- the equality, worth and diversity of all people, respecting their individuality, privacy and dignity
- the protection of all people from discrimination and prejudice
- personal autonomy, independence, choice and control.

The Participation of people who use social work services and carers

- The College is committed to ensuring that everything we say and write will make sense to service users and carers
- We will establish a Reference Group of service users and carers and this group will nominate 2 people to sit on the governing body of The College
- We will ensure that service users and carers contribute to and are engaged with all the developments of The College
- The consultation we have already done with people who use social work services and carers demonstrates how their interests will improve the work of The College

THE COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK



This unusual and jokey Equation, made from Jelly and Pizza has a profound and serious message.

Twenty-three was the number of Social Workers that one young person explained that she had had to date over the past twelve years of her life in care.

This young person's call was for more to be done to increase retention and create continuity within Social Work practice.



The voice of people who use services

“I’ve had different experiences with them because I’ve had quite a lot of different social workers and that. And because when they keep leaving and they go into the community team and stuff, they get a higher position or something.

And yeah, I’ve been in different children’s homes, foster carers and stuff, just me and my dad. It’s been difficult because I’ve always felt unsettled; I’ve never like really had a stable life.”

(Male young offender – User Voice consultation events)

The College of Social Work - A leading light

Q. How do you know you have a good social worker?

A. When you feel your face light up when you see them

*(College consultation event with young people, run by **Action for Children.**)*



What will The College do?

As an independent membership organisation, led and run by social workers, The College of Social Work will:

- Be a powerful voice for the social work profession, in discussions with the public, policy makers and the media.
- Provide strong leadership for the profession.
- Work closely with people who use social work services and carers, ensuring that their views are incorporated into the overall development of The College.
- Be an international centre of excellence for the social work profession.

Where is The College now?

- Interim Board appointed and meeting monthly.
- Business plan and business model in development.
- Working with The Reform Board.
- Working with the Munro Review.
- Representation on the Professional Liaisons Group of The Health Professions Council.
- Building the media, public affairs functions and membership services of The College.
- Recruitment of Prospective Members, who are helping shape, develop and test services

What difference will The College make?

The College will guide and navigate social workers through every aspect of their careers by:

- Strengthening the profession.
- Providing a trusted, unified voice.
- Providing vital support to social workers and employers, through tangible membership benefits.





Thank you

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