

Evidence to the Education Select Committee from the Social Care Institute for Excellence regarding the creation of the College of Social Work

1. The Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) is an independent charity that improves the lives of adults and children who use care services by identifying and spreading knowledge about what works and by supporting the delivery of transformed, personalised social care services. We recognise the central role of people who use services and their carers, and we aim to ensure that their experience and expertise is reflected in all aspects of our work.
2. SCIE has previously hosted the creation of the National Skills Academy for Social Care and supports social worker education through the provision of online knowledge and practice resources.
3. SCIE is pleased to have the opportunity to contribute to the Committee's meeting held to take evidence on the development of the College of Social Work.

Summary of key points

4. The establishment of a College of Social Work was a recommendation of the Social Work Task Force in its report published in 2009¹.
5. On the 26th November 2009 the Department of Health contacted SCIE asking for its support in taking forward the development of the College by enabling the resolution of:
 - the exact purpose and remit of the College;
 - legal status, and
 - Interdependencies with other bodies.

SCIE was also asked to host the College of Social Work during its formative period.

6. Both the Department of Health and Department for Education committed £2.5 m each to support the development of the College over the two years to March 2012. SCIE accounts to both departments for the expenditure of this funding in accordance with a grant agreement with the Department for Education and a remit letter from the Department for Health. The funding is managed through a specific restricted fund and can only be used for the purposes set out by the funders. No

¹ Building a safe confident future: final report of the Social Work Task Force
1st December 2009

funding has been provided from any other organisation to support the creation of the College of Social Work.

7. SCIE convened a development group consisting of all key stakeholders which met from the 26 January to the 23 June 2010. All minutes of these meetings are published on the website of the College of Social Work.

8. The Development Group completed the following key tasks:
 - The recruitment through open competition of interim Co-chairs of the Interim Board of the College. The interview panel was independently chaired.
 - The recruitment of members of the Interim Board.
 - Consultation with social workers and key stakeholders on the role and function of the College.

9. The Interim Board of the College has met from October 2010 and accounted to the Social Work Reform Board for its work to build a College of Social Work and to SCIE for its expenditure. Reports have been provided by the College of Social Work to the SCIE board to enable oversight to be provided by our trustees. SCIE was represented as an observer on the Interim Board

10. On the 15 September 2011 the Interim Co-chairs of the College of Social Work attended a meeting of the SCIE board who endorsed the recommendation of The College of Social Work Interim Board that it should put its entire efforts behind the establishment of a new College of Social Work by 3 January 2012 and then seek to merge BASW into it.

11. An independently chaired Nominations Committee, of which SCIE was a member, met on the 11 October to appoint a Transition Board. The Transition Board met on the 24 October and has enabled the College of Social Work to be created as a separate legal entity. Between 1st November and 31 March 2012 the College will build its organisation to enable it to fully separate from SCIE. From 1 April 2012 any relationship between SCIE and the College of Social Work will be through a formal Service Level Agreement.