

Options for Excellence

Making links

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The task

- The Options for Excellence report was published in October 2006.
- Final report identified a further piece of work needed.

“The GSCC will produce a definition of the role of social workers.”

Options for Excellence: Building the Social Care Workforce of the Future (2006)

Why do we need a new description of social work?

- So that social work can play the right role in service provision.
- To help ensure that service users know what they can expect.
- To ensure that workforce planning takes into account the contribution social work can make.

The vision

- Social work at its best.
- Changing peoples lives.
- Empowering and liberating people.
- Creating healthy safe and supportive communities.

What is the new context?

- Service users at the heart.
- Working with other professionals in multi-agency settings.
- Services for adults and for children split.
- 30,000 employers.
- Compulsory registration for social workers.

The project

DH and DfES asked GSCC to lead the project.

- Project steering group established
 - General Social Care Council (GSCC)
 - Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI)
 - Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE)
 - Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC)
 - Skills for Care (SfC)

- Set up wider reference group of stakeholders including representatives of workforce, service users, managers, trainers and employers.

Timetable: Phase one

- Preparation: November – December 2006
 - Project teams established.
 - Literature review commissioned.
 - Pilot consultation event.

Timetable: Phase two

- “Scoping”: January – February 2007
 - Literature review published.
 - Discussion to inform the writing of a consultation document.
 - Four ‘Appreciative Inquiry’ events.
 - Events for front line social workers and for service users.

Timetable: Phase three

- Formal consultation: March – June 2007
 - Consultation paper published on March 14 2007.
 - Online consultation set-up (closes 12 June 2007).
 - Workshops at seminars and conferences.
 - Targeted events.

Timetable: Phase four

- Completion
 - Statement written.
 - Presented to Ministers.
 - Announcement.

Supporting Documents

To provide information and provoke debate

- “Changing Roles and Tasks” - the literature informed discussion paper.
- Reports of the four “appreciative inquiry” events.
- Reports of the service user events.
- Others yet to be added.

What the consultation covers

- When should social work be used?
- Should some tasks only be done by social workers?
- Are there some tasks that are best done by social workers?
- What tasks are not appropriate for social work?

Social work and service users

- What do service users want from social work?
- What does it mean to social work that service users want choice and control?
- Would it be right for services users to employ social workers?
- How can social work balance the interests of individuals and communities?

The Statutory Framework

- How can social work use its intervention powers appropriately?
- How do statute, government policy, and employer requirements affect good practice?
- How has registration affected the way social work is practiced?

Inter-professional working

- Do the boundaries between social work and other professions need re-drawing?
- How can inter-professional working be improved?

Employment and support

- Are the new emerging employer bodies offering social work the right support?
- How can experienced workers stay in touch with direct practice?
- How can good support and supervision be guaranteed?

How you can get involved

- Read, and respond to, the supporting papers published so far SocialWorkReview@scie.org.uk
- Read/download the consultation paper from www.gsccl.org.uk
- Respond online at <http://www.tribalinformation.co.uk/gsccl/>
- Organise discussion in your workplace or organisation and feedback to the consultation online at <http://www.tribalinformation.co.uk/gsccl/>