



Final reports from the Social Work Practice pioneers

As part of the wider Social Work Practice (SWP) pilots project, 10 SWP pioneers, separate from the pilots, were supported as a way of encouraging innovation in adult social work practice for adults. The pioneers were supported by seed funding, shared learning and through publication of their progress.

The SWP pioneers varied considerably in their size, organisational structure and in the work that they did. The criteria used to select them for support were that they should be:

- person-centred and outcomes-focused
- small
- social worker-led
- able to demonstrate that they can develop social work practice
- independent of local authority systems
- working in partnership
- engaged with people who need or use services
- constituted so that all funding is reinvested into the practice
- pioneering
- operational from 1 February 2012 at the latest, and run as SWP pioneers until 31 March 2013.

They could also be:

- commissioned by and accountable to a local authority or other public sector body or third sector organisation through a contract, or
- formed as an independent practice and charge fees (to the local authority, NHS or individuals for services)
- funded through other routes.

Proposals were invited from social workers or social work organisations in any context, and the 10 pioneers represented a varying set of projects, from those in councils seeking to develop and test the effectiveness of additional or substitute social work responses, to working with different groups, including those not typically supported by councils. They ranged from a council team to a small partnership of a couple of independent practitioners, to a user and carer-led pairing of organisations that employed a social worker.

The pioneers were:

Name	Based in	Working with
Birmingham City Council	Birmingham	Social work to develop capacity, skills and confidence in user-led organisations and peer social learning networks
Carers' Resource	Skipton	Support planning, capacity building and information giving to those who fell outside statutory services provision, either by choice or through circumstance
Central Bedfordshire Council	Central Bedfordshire	Additional or substitute social work responses to safeguarding circumstances including Network Meetings
Clarifi Consulting	Ipswich	Adult survivors of child sexual abuse
London Borough of Greenwich and Daybreak	Greenwich	Restorative and Family Group Conference responses to safeguarding situations
Ibk Initiatives and Lives Unlimited	York	User/family-led organisations employing a social worker; working with people in their twenties or thirties; evaluation by the Centre for Welfare Reform
Independent Social Work Partnership	Cheshire	Free face-to-face and online information and advice for people who didn't meet council criteria or who funded their own care
Medway Council	Medway	Focus on delivering better settled accommodation for 40 people with mental health needs
Safe and Settled	Walsall	Information, advice and advocacy, assessment and support planning – especially for people funding their own care

At the end of the project in March 2013 the pioneers wrote the reports on this site about their work. The content is that of the pioneers, and not of SCIE, and the pioneers have addressed consent issues in the use of any case studies.