

A Strategic Framework for Social Work 2017 - 2022

Our ambition is to strengthen social work as a means of improving people’s social wellbeing. We want social workers to get **even better** at what they do in improving people’s lives and in continuously improving the effectiveness of their practice and social work services.

This framework for social work sets out the 3 high level outcomes we will use to measure our progress during 2017 - 2022. The ultimate measure will be the difference social workers make to people’s lives. We will develop

ways to measure the impact and outcomes of social work interventions and services at individual and population levels to demonstrate our effectiveness in improving people’s social wellbeing.

At the heart of the framework is **improving social wellbeing** which is our **population accountability**.

These three high level outcomes are interdependent and relate to **the workforce, the services and the profession**; these inform our **performance accountability**.

Three strategic enablers are necessary to achieve the high level outcomes: **professional leadership** to influence on behalf of the profession; **continuous development** informed by evidence and research to shape practice; and **organisational culture** to support a social wellbeing model of service.

By putting improvement at the heart of social work we want to make a positive impact on people’s lives and change how social work is understood and valued within our society.



The report can be accessed at: www.health-ni.gov.uk/articles/social-work-strategy



Improving and Safeguarding
Social Wellbeing

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OUR VISION

Every person engaged with the social work services will live safely and well within supportive communities

OUR MISSION

Social workers will support communities, families and individuals to enhance their quality of life and social wellbeing.

Improvement

Strengthen the effectiveness of social work in improving people's social wellbeing.

Leadership

Develop social workers at all levels as leaders and ambassadors for the profession, modelling high professional standards and contributing to the development of social work.

OUR GOAL

Put improvement at the heart of social work.

Outcomes

Measure, evidence and communicate the difference social work makes in people's lives.

Co-production

Plan and deliver social work, including improvements in practice and services, in partnership with those who use our services.

SOCIAL WORK VALUES

Human Rights

We will uphold and promote individuals' dignity and wellbeing and respect and support their rights where this does not threaten the rights, safety or legitimate interests of others.

Social Justice

We will challenge discrimination, respect diversity, promote social inclusion and support fair and just policies, practice and decisions.

Professional Integrity

We will act in a reliable, honest and trustworthy manner and uphold the values and reputation of the profession.

Ethical Practice

We will act with integrity and treat people with respect, compassion and empathy and comply with regulatory, employer and professional requirements where these are consistent with professional values.