

The College of Social Work – Partnership in Action

The College of Social Work wants to work in partnership with higher education so that, together, we can deliver initial and continuing professional education and development, which will ensure access to high quality, relevant, flexible and consistent learning opportunities for all social workers.

The Social Work Task Force recommended the establishment of ‘an independent College of Social Work which takes responsibility for high standards of practice, promotes a strong culture of professional development and establishes a powerful voice for the profession’ (HM Government, Dec 2009). This was one of 15 recommendations made by the Task Force, accepted and consolidated by three government departments (DCFS, DH and BIS) in ‘Building a Safe and Confident Future’ (HM Government, March 2010) and later through the establishment of the Social Work Reform Board.

Steps have now been taken to constitute The College of Social Work, and the Social Work Reform Board has identified four areas of responsibility which will transfer to The College for further development and implementation. These are: the professional capabilities framework; principles for continuing professional development; initial training; a framework for partnership working.

These are exciting developments for the social work profession, and offer an opportunity for a re-statement of the core values that underpin the professionalism of social workers and which are an integral part of initial and continuing education. Yet they also come at a time when there are other significant changes taking place across both the higher education sector, the registration and regulation of the profession and the environments in which social workers have traditionally been employed. We believe that, by working together, we can minimise the undoubted difficulties which lie ahead, and maximise the opportunities for building a strong and confident profession.

This interactive workshop will give you the opportunity to:

- Find out where The College is now in relation to the Reform Board’s proposals and what this might mean for your practice
- Contribute to the discussion about how the College operates and the offers it makes to its members
- Show how your work contributes to the agenda of excellence in social work education

References

Department for Children, Schools and Families (December 2009) Building a Safe and Confident Future: the final report of the Social Work Task Force
www.education.gov.uk/publications/eOrderingDownload/01114-2009DOM-EN.pdf

HM Government (March 2010) Building a Safe and Confident Future: implementing the recommendations of the Social Work Task Force
www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/@ps/documents/digitalasset/dh_114251.pdf