

THE COLLEGE OF **SOCIAL WORK**

A Guide for Students



Dear Student

On behalf of everyone at The College of Social Work, we wanted to take this opportunity to wish you the best of luck with your social work training.

As social workers ourselves, we both know that the profession can at times be demanding, but with these challenges comes a huge sense of reward and achievement. We really do hope that you are excited about becoming part of a profession which supports and changes the lives of so many people.

We hope that this leaflet will give you more information about The College of Social Work; why there is an urgent need for a 'College', what the College Development Group has achieved so far and how we hope to support you in the future.

Your input is critical and will help us to create a College which addresses your concerns and represents your aspirations for the future of social work.

Please get involved today; visit our website, share your views and opinions, read about our latest developments and sign up for our monthly e-newsletter.

*If you have any more questions or simply want to talk to one of the team, please contact us today on **020 7089 6840** or email **collegeinfo@scie.org.uk***

Thanks and good luck!

**Corinne May-Chahal and Maurice Bates, Interim Co-Chairs
of The College of Social Work**



The College of Social Work: The story so far...

**November
2009**

- The Social Work Task Force recommends setting up an independent College of Social Work, led and run by social workers, to stand up for the profession, clarify its role and advise on training and development.

**January
2010**

- A College Development Group is established
- SCIE's Chair (Social Care Institute for Excellence) Allan Bowman takes the role of Chair of the Development group, guiding the development process.

**May
2010**

- A major consultation exercise is launched across England.
- A series of one day events allows social workers, managers, people who use services and their carers to have their say and help to define the future functions of The College.
- An online consultation is launched at www.collegeofsocialwork.org, providing the social work profession with an opportunity to share their opinions and ideas.

**July
2010**

- Corinne May-Chahal and Maurice Bates are appointed as Interim Co-Chairs for The College. Corinne and Maurice are registered social workers, who share between them an extensive level of experience in management, training and teaching.

**September
2010**

- Interim Board appointed: 10 experts from the social work sector will be appointed to guide The College into the next phase of development. The board will include social workers, managers, trainers and academics.

**October
2010**

- Consultation exercise ends. All results will be analysed in depth by the Chairs, Interim Board and Development Group and the future purpose and functions of The College of Social Work will be defined.

**Spring
2011**

- The College of Social Work will begin functioning as a legal entity.

The College Clinic – put your questions to the panel

How is The College being funded?

The Government has provided start-up funding to enable the establishment of The College as an independent body, which will be accountable to its members – social workers. In the long term, The College will be funded by membership fees.

The Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) has agreed to support the set up and nurture The College into existence.

The College does not yet exist as a legal entity. The consultation exercise will ensure that the vision, mission, values and purpose are those that the social work profession wants.

How much will I have to pay to become a member of The College?

We plan to charge a very reduced and nominal membership fee to students and have been discussing this throughout the consultation exercise.

We are also exploring realistic fee levels for qualified and practicing social workers and are looking into possible partnerships with other agencies in the social work system, to see if we can charge an overall fee that is affordable and simple.

As a social work student, what will The College do for me?

The College will provide up to date information, guidance and support to student social workers. By working closely with training organisations, representative bodies of social work lecturers and researchers, regulatory bodies, inspectorates and government, The College will bring real coherence to the system of initial and post qualifying training in social work.

What do you want?

Social work students want a college that will:

Stand up for the profession

The main advantage is to have a national voice for social workers...we absolutely, desperately need somebody standing up for social work, consulting with social workers and being there to react to the media and the government...

I think there is a definite need for a voice for social workers...to give the public a better view and understanding of our roles.

Make people understand what social work is all about

To actually inform the public and the media as to what is at the heart of social work; that it is a good process...It does improve and change people's lives...it's not perfect but it is a very good resource nationally.

Offer clear advice on training and professional development

I don't work in a generic team...I work with doctors, nurses, consultants and OTs, but not alongside other social workers. Getting all the information and being kept up-to-date with everything that is going on in the social work arena is what is important to me.

As students, training is very important to us...that there is a dichotomy between providers...so that all universities are offering the same sort of course and so all newly qualified social workers are coming out with the same qualification.

Bring pride to the profession

I still retain an absolute passion for the good that social work can do and have never yet met a social worker who hasn't wanted to do a good job. As social workers we need to reclaim our profession and what it stands for.

Register for updates and have your say

We are working hard to build a supportive College that you trust and would feel proud to be a part of. We want to create an organisation that will really support the social work profession and will make a real difference in raising the profile of social work with policy makers, the public and the media. To keep up to date with all the latest College developments, please register for our regular email bulletin. You can do this at

www.collegeofsocialwork.org

Every reply received by 30 November 2010 will be automatically entered into a free prize draw, with a chance to win one of 3 £200 Amazon vouchers! (Prize-winners will be contacted by 10 December 2010.)

A graphic of a purple and pink Amazon voucher with the text '£200' written on it.



To watch an introductory student film all about the College of Social Work, please visit www.collegeofsocialwork.org today!

Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE)

SCIE is proud to support the establishment of The College of Social Work. SCIE supports students as they take their first steps towards a challenging and rewarding career. SCIE is a one-stop-shop for the latest in social care information and good practice guidance. All of SCIE's resources directly reflect the core curriculum for social work education and training. They can be accessed free of charge from the SCIE website.

www.scie.org.uk

social care
institute for excellence



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