

THE COLLEGE OF **SOCIAL WORK**





Dear Colleague

We hope that this leaflet will give you more information about the developing 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.

As social workers ourselves, we know that the profession can at times be demanding, but with these challenges comes a huge sense of reward and achievement.

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***

With best wishes

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

FAQ's

Why do we need The College of Social Work?

Being a social worker is a demanding but hugely rewarding job. Social workers often deal with very complex cases and have to make difficult decisions about people and their lives. It is important that the public and the media understand the role of social work and why these decisions have to be made.

In late 2009, the Social Work Task Force published its review of adults' and children's social work services in England. It recommended 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.

"We are recommending the establishment of an independent national college of social work. This will articulate and promote the interests of good social work. It will give the profession itself strong, independent leadership; a clear voice in public debate, policy development and policy delivery; and strong ownership of the standards to be upheld."

Building a safe, confident future: The final report of the Social Work Task Force, November 2009.

What sort of college will it be?

The future purpose and functions of The College will be decided, based on the results of an extensive consultation exercise involving social work professionals, people who use social work services and their carers. A college in this sense of the word means a membership organisation that supports a professional group, rather than a college which provides training.

It is proposed that The College will be established as an independent organisation and will be led and run by social workers. It will initially cover England but will seek to become a UK body should this be desired in the devolved countries. It will build strong links with trade unions and will work collaboratively with the various bodies that have statutory responsibilities, working within the regulatory framework for social work.

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

How will The College be 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, which were discussed extensively during the consultation events. We need to charge enough to ensure income from membership fees covers the cost of providing services to members. This will depend on the numbers of social workers who are likely to join.

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.

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

What will The College of Social Work do for the profession?

The College of Social Work will seek to provide:

Leadership: The College will provide leadership to the profession.

Excellence: The College will enable and guard excellence in the profession.

Pride: The College will have pride in and bring pride to the social work profession.

Partnership: The College will actively seek partnerships with people who use services and their carers, promoting partnerships that empower service users.

Independence: The College will be independent and willing to challenge government, policy makers and the media when necessary.

Led by the profession: The College will mobilise the considerable expertise of the profession and its members.

Starting from strengths: The College will build on existing good practice in the UK and overseas.

Collaborative: The College will work collaboratively with allied professions and with organisations affecting the profession.

Coherence: The College will bring coherence and clarity to the profession.

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.

**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 online consultation exercise is launched at **www.collegeofsocialwork.org** and is supported by a series of one day consultation events across England.

**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 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.

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**

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