

## Introduction - information about the consultation

Welcome to the National College of Social Work's Consultation of Carers. This is being carried out by a team from the Department of Social Work and Social Care at the University of Sussex. We want to get as wide a response as we can, including those carers who may not be able to get to a live event or who may not be part of a carers' group. This short online survey is one of the ways that we are reaching people. We are holding a prize draw for people who take part; after you have finished the survey there is the opportunity to win one of three prizes of high street vouchers worth £50.

The purpose of the consultation is to identify the views and values of carers in relation to the proposed values, aims and objectives of the College.

The consultations will seek a sense of what the College for Social Work can do for social workers from the point of view of carers, and why this may be important to carers.

The consultations will also seek a sense of what involvement carers should have in the development and delivery of the college.

Before you start the consultation, there is a page with some details about confidentiality and about your consent to take part, so that we can use the information that we collect from you. Then we'd like some information about you as a carer, although no details that could be used to identify you. There are three parts to the consultation itself, where we ask for your opinion about the values, objectives and purposes of the new College, and then we'd just like to check that you've had a chance to say what you want to in the consultation. Finally, if you'd like to enter the prize draw please enter your details at the end.

You must be a carer (or former carer) to take part in this consultation, and you must be living in, or have lived in England while carrying out your caring role.

This questionnaire is about Social Work, however it is open to carers who have not had contact with social workers, but may have had contact with care managers, assessment officers and other enablement staff who work for the local authority.

If you have any questions, please email us and we'd be happy to give you more information: [a.cheng@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:a.cheng@sussex.ac.uk) or [l.f.marrable@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:l.f.marrable@sussex.ac.uk).

Completed copies can be sent back to us at this address:  
National College of Social Work - Carers Consultation  
c/o Tish Marrable  
Department of Social Work  
Essex House  
University of Sussex  
Falmer, Brighton  
BN1 9QN

Thank you for taking part, we feel it is important that carers are involved in shaping the College.

Andy Cheng and Tish Marrable for the University of Sussex project team.

## Consent to taking part

The Consultation of Carers for the College of Social Work project is working with you (as a carer) to inform the College of Social Work development group about the function and purposes carers would require from the new College. This form is to record your consent to taking part.

Please read this and if you agree, tick the box at the bottom of the page.

1. I have read the information about the project (above and on previous page). I understand what it is about. I have had the opportunity to ask questions and receive any further information I felt was necessary to help me decide whether to take part.
2. I understand that the consultation report will be generated from my and other carers' participation. The report may include references to any personal experiences I choose to relate during the consultations and will be used to inform the development of the College of Social Work.
3. I also understand the consultation report and associated materials may be used for the purposes of informing research and debate to improve social work and social care, and may be seen by allied professional and participants of seminars, conferences and related events.
4. I understand (for items 2 & 3), that if my personal experiences are used, my name and any information that can identify me will not be included in the consultation report.
5. I understand that the only exception to the confidentiality of my personal information is in relation to information about likely harm to a vulnerable person, in which case I will be informed of details of any disclosure considered necessary in order to ensure appropriate attention to that person's safety.
6. I understand that I will have access to a copy of the consultation report at the end of the project (November 2010).
7. I understand that I can withdraw from this project at any time, and that I can also withdraw my consent to my materials being used in the future.

**\* I consent to being a participant in this project.**

Yes I wish to take part

## About doing this consultation survey

You can choose which questions you answer, so if you want to, leave one blank and skip onto the next question or page. Don't forget that at the very end of this survey is the opportunity to enter the prize draw.

Please use additional paper if you'd like to expand your answers. We want to hear your opinions about these matters.

When you are finished, please send your questionnaire to Tish Marrable at:

National College of Social Work - Carers Consultation  
c/o Tish Marrable  
Department of Social Work  
Essex House  
University of Sussex  
Falmer, Brighton  
BN1 9QN  
Thank you!

## Information about you (1 of 3)

We would like to have some information about you so that we know what sorts of carers have taken part, and the areas of England that they live in. We don't need any information that would identify you personally. That's why we have asked for only the first part of your postcode.

**Please tell us the first part of your postcode, eg BN2. This will let us map the areas in England that we have had responses from.**

### Are you

A current carer

A former carer

Please select the choice that most closely resembles your ethnicity:

- White British
- Irish
- Any other White background
- Mixed
- White and Black Caribbean
- White and Black African
- White and Asian
- Any other Mixed background
- Asian or Asian British
- Indian
- Pakistani
- Bangladeshi
- Any other Asian background
- Black or Black British
- Caribbean
- African
- Any other Black background
- Chinese or other ethnic group
- Chinese
- Don't wish to state my ethnicity
- Any other ethnic group (please specify)

Information about you (2 of 3)

**Please tell us your gender**

- Female
- Male
- Transsexual

**Would you identify yourself as Lesbian, Gay, Bi or Transsexual (LGBT)?**

- Yes
- No

**Please tell us your age**

- 18-30
- 31-44
- 45-58
- 58-70
- 71+

**If you work outside of your caring, is this full time or part time?**

- Full time
- Part time
- Not applicable

**Do you identify yourself as Traveller or Romany?**

- Traveller
- Romany
- No

**Information about you (3 of 3)**

**Do you live in a rural or isolated area?**

Yes

No

**Are you an asylum seeker or refugee?**

Yes

No

**Please tell us how many people you are caring for.**

**What is the main condition or conditions of the person or people that you care for?  
You may select more than one option.**

	Child	Adult
Physical disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Elderly and frail (not including dementia) Please ignore the child option here!	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mental Illness (including dementia and elderly confusion)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Substance misuse	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hearing impairment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Visual impairment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Learning disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Autistic Spectrum Condition	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other – please tell us below	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you selected 'other', please tell us what this is

**Any more information you feel we should have about you (for instance, you may be disabled yourself)**

**The Consultation Part 1**

**Part 1: Values - What's important?**

The College development team has identified the following values as important to a national college:

1. Leadership
2. Excellence
3. Pride
4. Partnership
5. Independence
6. Led by the profession
7. Starting from strengths
8. Collaborative
9. Coherence

What do you think are the three most important values for Social Work which should be reflected in the College's work?

Value 1	<input type="text"/>
Value 2	<input type="text"/>
Value 3	<input type="text"/>

**The Consultation Part 2**

**Part 2: Objectives for the College**

Please consider the following eight statements and score them in terms of whether you agree with these as objectives the new College should work towards:

	Completely disagree	Partly disagree	Slightly disagree	Slightly agree	Partly agree	Completely agree
a. Generate cultural change and raise the status and standard of social work	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
b. Act as the source and guardian of high professional standards within and outside the social work profession	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
c. Bring clarity and coherence to the profession by defining and promoting the responsibilities of the profession	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
d. Improve public understanding of, and support for, social work through sustained public education and by representing the profession in the media and public debates	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
e. Facilitate peer review and support to improve and develop the profession	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
f. Facilitate employee union representation (via partnerships with trade unions)	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
g. Act as the essential source of advice on social work to bodies who regulate and support social work and social care, and to organisations who deliver social work and social care	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
h. Ensure that its work is grounded in how social work can best support people who use social work services, and their carers	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
i. Is there another objective you feel should be here? Please tell us what it is and score it as above.						

The Consultation Part 3 (1 of 5)

Part 3: Statements and Grouped Questions

In this part of the Consultation, you will be presented with five statements about the National College of Social Work. Please rate each main statement according to whether you agree or disagree with it. There are then a group of questions based around the statement. Please tell us what you think about one or more of the questions from the group. You do not need to answer all, or any, questions if you don't want to.

**Group 1: Tell us how much you agree with this statement, and then comment on one or more of the questions below it.**

Completely disagree    Partly disagreed    Slightly disagree    Slightly agree    Partly agree    Completely agree

The National College of Social Work should provide a strong voice for, and leadership to, the profession.

⏪    ⏪    ⏪    ⏪    ⏪    ⏪

**Social workers deal with some very sensitive cases and social work often gets very negative press. As a result individual social workers are often uncomfortable speaking out about their work or pressing for support for their profession.**

1. Can you think of a time when your social worker has felt uncomfortable about 'speaking out about their work / standing up for their profession '?
2. Would this affect a social worker's relationship with you as a carer? And is that important?
3. What should The College look at with regards to carers in considering this issue?
4. How could you or other carers get involved in this issue? What would be the benefits of doing so and to whom?
5. Would 'Providing a strong voice for, and leadership to the profession' help carers and social workers? And if so, in what way?
6. What else should The College consider here?

Part 3 continued (2 of 5)

**Group 2: Tell us how much you agree with this statement, and then comment on one or more of the questions below it.**

Completely disagree    Partly disagree    Slightly disagree    Slightly agree    Partly agree    Completely agree

The National College of Social Work should define the values and purpose of the social work profession.

j◀                  j◀                  j◀                  j◀                  j◀                  j◀

**There is some confusion over the current and future role of social work within social care nationally.**

- 1. Another way of asking about 'Values' is to ask 'what is important?' What, from a carer's point of view, do you think is important in a social worker? (And why?)**
- 2. Please tell us about a time when you felt your social worker demonstrated clear values and purpose in relation to their role and task undertaken.**
- 3. Would 'Defining the values and purpose of the social work profession' help carers and social workers? And if so, in what way?**
- 4. How could you or other carers get involved in this issue? What would be the benefits of doing so and to whom?**
- 5. Would this affect a social worker's relationship with you as a carer? And is that important?**
- 6. If you were The College, what else would you consider here?**

Part 3 continued (3 of 5)

**Group 3: Tell us how much you agree with this statement, and then comment on one or more of the questions below it.**

Completely disagree    Partly disagreed    Slightly disagree    Slightly agree    Partly agree    Completely agree

The National College of Social Work should develop, uphold and support standards.

j◀                  j◀                  j◀                  j◀                  j◀                  j◀

**Social workers should be working to the highest professional standards. The General Social Care Council regulates social workers and holds them to account in line with a code of practice. But The College can help raise standards even further by working closely with social workers, their employers, the regulators and service users and carers.**

- 1. Please tell us about any time where you felt your social worker(s) needed help in developing, upholding and supporting standards.**
- 2. How could you or other carers get involved in this issue? What would be the benefits of doing so and to whom?**
- 3. Would ‘Developing, upholding and supporting standards’ help carers and social workers? And if so, in what way? (Please give personal experiences if you can.)**
- 4. How should The College work with carers on upholding and raising standards in social work? And why is that important?**
- 5. Would developing, upholding and supporting standards in social work affect a social worker’s relationship with you as a carer? And is that important?**
- 6. What should The College look at with regards to carers when considering this issue?**

Part 3 continued (4 of 5)

**Group 4: Tell us how much you agree with this statement, and then comment on one or more of the questions below it.**

Completely disagree    Partly disagreed    Slightly disagree    Slightly agree    Partly agree    Completely agree

The National College of Social Work should provide guidance and support to the profession and allied professions

◀                      ▶                      ▶                      ▶                      ▶                      ▶

**It can be difficult to keep up to date with the latest policy and practice in social work, and what it means for individual cases. The College will provide guidance and support social workers, and other professionals who work with them (e.g. occupational therapists, nurses, probation officers etc.)**

- 1. Do you think ‘Providing guidance and support to the profession and allied professions’ would help carers and social workers? And if so, in what way?**
- 2. Would this affect a social worker’s relationship with you as a carer? And would that be a good thing?**
- 3. What should The College look at with regards to carers in considering this issue?**
- 4. How could you or other carers get involved in this issue? What would be the benefits of doing so and to whom?**
- 5. What else should The College consider here?**

Part 3 continued (5 of 5)

Group 5: Tell us how much you agree with this statement, and then comment on one or more of the questions below it.

Completely disagree    Partly disagreed    Slightly disagree    Slightly agree    Partly agree    Completely agree

The National College of Social Work should shape training and development.

j◀                  j◀                  j◀                  j◀                  j◀                  j◀

Social workers need a range of complex skills – including excellent judgement, listening, negotiation and analytical skills, as well as a valid social work qualification, such as a social work degree. As with all professions, social workers are required to continue their professional development throughout their career.

The College will improve the selection, training and ongoing development of social workers by working with those who select, train, employ, regulate and use them.

1. Would 'shaping training and development' help carers and social workers? And if so, in what way?
2. How should the college work with carers on this? And why is that important?
3. Would an improvement in this area affect a social worker's relationship with you as a carer? And is that important?
4. What should The College look at with regards to carers in considering this issue?
5. How could you or other carers get involved in this issue? What would be the benefits of doing so and to whom?
6. What else should The College consider here?

[Empty response box for question 6]

**Almost done**

**We'd like to ask a few questions about the consultation itself. Completing these will help us to know how we're doing and how we can improve the ways we work**

	Not at all useful	Not very useful	Not sure	Partly useful	Very useful
Do you think this consultation has been useful for carers using Social Work services?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Do you think it will be useful for the College of Social Work?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**What would you like to see happen as a result of the consultation?**

**Have you been able to say what you wanted to about the College of Social Work?**

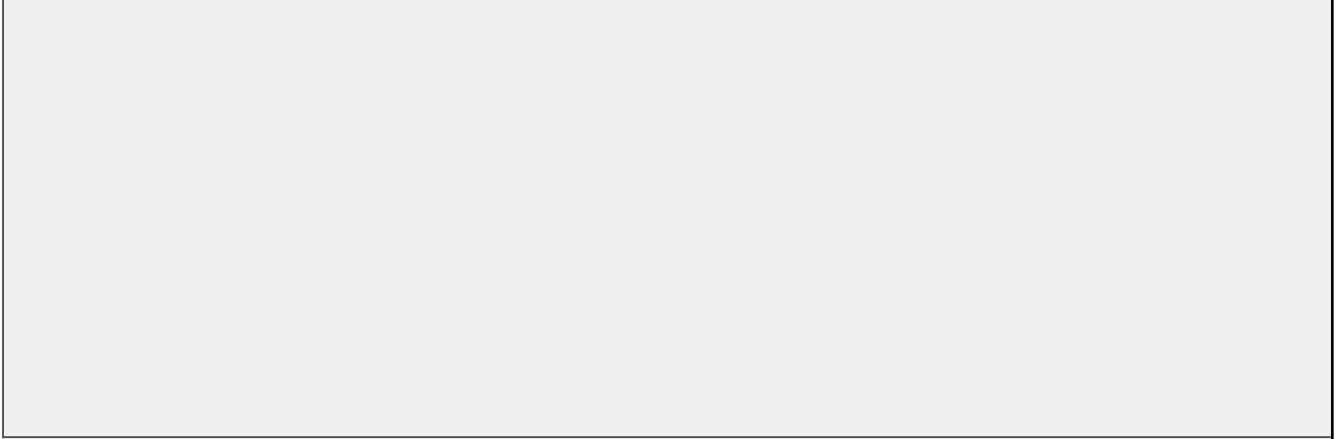
**In particular:**

What you think the College should do?

How and why that is important to you (as a carer)?

How carers ought to be involved in the College?

**Is there anything else you'd like us to know?**



Thank you for all your help. On the next page is the opportunity to register for the prize draw.

**Entering the prize draw**

At the end of the consultation period we will be holding a prize draw to say thank you to all those who took part in the online survey. There are three prizes of high street vouchers to the value of £50. If you would like to enter, please enter your details below.

This information will be held separately from the consultation results, and will be deleted as soon as the prize draw takes place and the winners have been contacted.

**Please give us a name and contact number and/or email address so that we can contact you if you win. You also can enter your details if you would like to be kept informed about the results of the consultation.**

Name

Contact telephone number

Email address

**Would you like to be kept informed about the results of the Consultation?**

Yes

No

**If you do want to be kept informed, please tell us how we should send you this (ie by email or post) and leave the appropriate address for this below.**

Thank you for taking part in this consultation. Good luck with the prize draw if you are taking part. We will contact the winners and give you a choice of high street shops that you can have vouchers from.

Best wishes from Tish and Andy.

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