

A GUIDE ON THE WORK OF BASW CYMRU

INTRODUCTION

Congratulations on your election to the Senedd! During the next five years, you will probably receive correspondence from your constituents on several issues relating to the work of social workers in Wales. The British Association of Social Workers Cymru (BASW) is Wales' professional membership organisation for social work. We are the independent voice of social work and we champion social work and help our members achieve the highest professional standard.

We hope this guide will be of assistance to you and your office in understanding a little bit more about our work and how we can be of assistance to you.

WHAT IS SOCIAL WORK?

Social workers aim to improve people's lives by helping with social and interpersonal difficulties, the impact of poverty and discrimination and by promoting human rights and wellbeing. Social workers protect children and adults with support needs from harm. From helping keep a family under pressure together to supporting someone with mental health problems, social work is there to support through major life transitions. Social work is varied, demanding, often emotional and very rewarding career.

Ruth Allen, the Chief Executive Officer of BASW believes that:

“social work is about life, treasuring humanity, building connections, sharing and promoting fairness. It is about creativity, care and love – being there to help people overcome obstacles and oppressions that hold them back. For people using our services, a social worker should be someone to trust and believe in – someone who helps you believe in yourself. Sometimes we must hold boundaries, protect rights, advocate and challenge. We are always in the midst of the messy stuff, finding ways forward.”



MANIFESTO ASKS

For social workers to fulfil their potential and make a positive difference to the well-being and flourishing of children, young people and adults, during the past election campaign BASW Cymru called for the following areas to be adopted as part of the programme of work for the next Welsh Government:

- 1 UNDERTAKE AN INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF SOCIAL WORK IN WALES.**
- 2 INCREASE THE NUMBERS OF SOCIAL WORKERS ENTERING THE PROFESSION AND CLOSE THE VACANCY GAPS.**
- 3 INCREASE THE NUMBER OF STUDENT BURSARIES AND PUT THEM ON A PAR WITH THOSE OFFERED TO STUDENT NURSES.**
- 4 ENSURE THE ESSENTIAL ROLE OF SOCIAL WORKERS IN PUBLIC HEALTH IS FULLY INTEGRATED INTO EMERGENCY PLANNING AT GOVERNMENT AND LOCAL LEVEL.**
- 5 REFORM AND INVEST IN SOCIAL CARE FUNDING.**
- 6 MAKE ANTI-OPPRESSIVE, ANTI-RACIST AND CULTURAL COMPETENCE EDUCATION MANDATORY FOR ALL SOCIAL WORKERS THROUGHOUT ALL STAGES OF THEIR CAREERS.**
- 7 CREATE THE ROLE OF A CHIEF SOCIAL WORKER FOR WALES.**

BUILDING BACK BETTER AFTER COVID-19

Social workers must be an integral part of the planning to ensure Wales build back better post-pandemic.

Social workers played and will continue to play, an integral role in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic through; direct support to those needing care and support, providing as much continuity of service as possible and flexibly responding to new demands and expectations as they arise. The pandemic has increased the urgency to reimagine how social work happens in Wales, in building back better, if we are to meet the challenges wrought from ten years of austerity and further exposed through the pandemic.



BASW Cymru wants the new Welsh Government to move beyond rhetoric and place social work knowledge, skills and experience at the heart of designing, delivering and leading on a health and social care system that is fair, culturally safe, authentically co-produced, community centred and built on the principles of social models of wellness.

The Welsh Government need to expediate the reform of social care funding and ensure long-term investment in the social care sector. Wales is facing a social care funding shortfall especially in relation to funding elderly care.

The role of Chief Social Workers for Wales is much needed to act as a voice for the profession, to support and enhance how the profession is valued and help to create the best circumstances to deliver true parity with the NHS.

CONTACT DETAILS

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