

KL/ST

29 March 2021



Comhairle Aonghais

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Margo Williamson

Jude Currie & Alison Bavidge

By e-mail - scotland@basw.co.uk

Dear Jude and Alison

Anti-Racist Social Work Practice in Our Workplaces and Social Work Education

Thank you for your letter dated 19 March 2021 in advance of the UN International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. I welcome the steps SASW has taken to highlight this issue across Scottish local authorities and Schools of Social Work.

Your letter asked us to:

- Explicitly recognise that open acknowledgement of racism is a necessary step towards becoming an anti-racist social work community that is inclusive and values all its members and the people we serve.
- Commit to including anti-racist social work practice as a central feature in social work education and in the continuing professional development curriculum on offer within organisations employing social workers.

I fully support the first point, explicit and open acknowledgement of racism is a critical step in the journey towards an anti-racist social work community. Of course, this reflects what we know about how to effectively disrupt discriminatory attitudes and practices more generally and it is entirely consistent with our values as a profession to do so.

In relation to your second point, I am happy to support measures to achieve this locally and have asked our organisational development service and our equalities officer for support in ensuring this is the case across our CPD offer. We will continue to work with our local Schools of Education to support the


Angus House | Orchardbank Business Park | Forfar | DD8 1AN
T: 03452 777 778 | E: chiefexec@angus.gov.uk | www.angus.gov.uk

development and delivery of their curriculum, including through the provision of practice placement experiences.

Furthermore, the local authority more generally is proactively seeking ways to grow the diversity of our workforce, including across social work and social care services. Whilst our workforce is reflective of the make up of the local population, we are keen to ensure that we are an inclusive employer.

Thank you once again for promoting this important issue across our profession.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kathryn Lindsay', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kathryn Lindsay
Chief Social Work Officer