

D2N2 Teaching Partnership

Social Work Academy for Excellence

Newsletter - Autumn 2020

NEWS FROM THE SECTOR

Redthread – living through lockdown – insights and warnings from young people

A coalition of charities, led by Redthread, recently published a report on the lockdown experiences of children and young people at risk of involvement in serious violence. The results of surveys with young people show that just over half of the 40 respondents felt their needs had not been met and more than three quarters said lockdown had had a negative impact on their mental health. Read more [here](#)

Youth Justice Board – latest report

The YJB has published an evaluation of a project in the London boroughs of Islington and Haringey aimed at understanding and addressing the disproportionately high representation of children and young people from black and other ethnic minority backgrounds in the criminal justice system. Read more [here](#)

FGM Newsletter

NHS England has recently published its latest newsletter on FGM, with updates on campaigns and international research. Read the newsletter [here](#)

Measuring Children’s Wellbeing

Earlier this month the ONS published the outcome of its tenth study of 10 – 15-year olds wellbeing and happiness (interviews were carried out before the pandemic). Key themes identified in relation to what children need for a happy life include: positive relationships; safe spaces and things to do; health; skills and schools; and a happy future. Read more [here](#)



DoH Winter Plan for Adults Social Care

In September, the Department for Health & Social Care published its Winter Plan document. It focuses on 4 main themes:

- preventing and controlling the spread of infection in care settings
- collaboration across health and care services
- supporting people who receive social care, the workforce, and carers
- supporting the system

You can access the full report [here](#)

Workplace Standards – Respecting Racial Equality

Important work to address workplace equality standards for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic staff is being led by the office of the Chief Social Workers for Adults. Social workers and other social care professionals will benefit – find out more [here](#)

Think Local – Act Personal – A Telling Experience

The TLAP group recently published their report into the effects of the pandemic on people who access care and support (including informal carers), as seen through the lens of personalisation. This blog offers a few observations on the journey, and thoughts for the future. You can read the blog [here](#) and the full report is [here](#)

Social Care & Obesity – new LGA report

The costs associated with caring for and treating people with obesity-related, long-term health conditions are significant. The social care requirements for people with severe obesity are also costly and include housing adaptations, specialised equipment, and carer provision. This new report explores the key issues for social care, with current statistical data, and offers some options for prevention and support. You can access it [here](#)

Social Work during Coronavirus – BASW Survey

BASW wants to hear your ongoing queries and experiences during the Coronavirus pandemic. They first launched the survey in March 2020 and have now added new questions to follow your experiences during Covid-19. If you've not taken the survey yet, you can access it [here](#)

Self Care Psychology – Free Wellbeing Resources

One of the organisations that we follow on Twitter – Self Care Psychology – has recently released a free set of wellbeing resources on its website. It takes the

form of a “flip-book” which gives practitioners some useful, practical, ideas about how they could start to look after themselves. Well worth passing around your team, and sharing with friends and relatives – everyone needs a little self care just now! You can access the flip-book [here](#)

British Journal of Social Work – Digital Edition!

To mark BASW’s 50th anniversary, the BJSW published its first digital edition this year – and it’s free for everyone to access. Including some interesting overviews of social work through the decades, changes in children’s and adult’s social care, what lies ahead for social work education and the workforce, and what we see as our core ethics and values now. Download the report [here](#)

NEWS FROM THE PARTNERSHIP



Thank You – a message from the D2N2 Board

2020 has been an extraordinary year. At the start we had just a vague awareness of an infection that was impacting on populations in the Eastern hemisphere, but we gradually came to the realisation that it was heading our way and – from March onwards – we’ve found ourselves operating in a very different, strange, and challenging world.

The immediate concern had been to ensure cover for our frontline work with adults, children & families – what if our social workers all caught the virus? How would we deliver services? Who would deliver services? There was great potential for significant disruption, and we braced ourselves for the worst.

In reality, our workforce stayed put, stood strong, and “carried on” with great fortitude. Our social work teams and their support workers got creative, developed innovative ways of delivering services, learned a lot about new technologies from their

more “techie-savvy” colleagues, and our initial concerns about mass sickness levels faded away and were replaced with admiration and respect for the way that everyone had risen to the Covid challenge.

At the Partnership’s recent Board Meeting, it was universally agreed that – as a group of organisations working at the frontline across our communities – we really needed to express our gratitude and appreciation to all our social workers, our care workers, support teams, and our social work students, for the commitment, determination and resilience they’ve all demonstrated over the last 6 months. You’ve done amazingly well, and we’re very proud of the achievements you’ve created, and the challenges you’ve met head on.

We may yet be living with Covid into the New Year, and whilst we’re all just trying to re-frame Christmas in this very different world, what is for sure is that we will get through this, and we’ll maintain the quality and consistency of our service delivery for all of our service users, in spite of a global pandemic!

And that’s thanks to you all – for being there and staying there. We hope that you and your loved ones stay safe and stay healthy as we move into the New Year when, hopefully, we will return gradually to a more normal way of working and living.

New Developments!

Whilst Covid-19 has necessarily put the lid on a lot of our usual Partnership activities this year, our enthusiasm for “seizing the day” hasn’t been dampened any! We’re always on the look out for new ideas and new ways of promoting good social work practice.

So we’re hoping to participate in Social Work England’s “Social Work Week” next March, and will be submitting an expression of interest in this before the end of the month. With the impact of Covid-19 being a constant in our lives for a while yet, and mindful that recovery will be a slow and steady process, we’re keen to promote our own Health & Wellbeing Hub more widely – so that other Teaching Partnerships, and Local Authorities can take the idea forward themselves, and offer a comprehensive platform for social work staff and student support in their own areas.

We’re also looking at engaging with the Centre for Expertise in Child Sexual Abuse, to organise some online webinars for our social work students. It’s early days yet, but we’ve seen how this training has

been delivered in other areas, and we're keen to provide a similar input for our own students in the early part of 2021.

One of our partners, Nottinghamshire County Council, has recently signed up to a new project being organised by the Centre for What Works in Children's Social Care. The project is looking at ways to improve the morale and wellbeing of children's social workers, and will run over the coming 4-5 months, so we'll get Nottinghamshire to provide some feedback on this once it's completed.

Although our face-to-face CPD events can't happen just now, we are hoping to deliver a full day event for our students and NQSW's in the early part of the New Year. This of course will be a virtual event, and we'll aim on getting further details about this sent out across the Partnership after New Year.

Whilst all of this work is on-going, we're also consulting with our Partners on the types of online

training or webinars that might be most helpful, and we're going to consider options in a bit more depth when our Pre and Post Qualification Hubs meet in January – with a view to getting any new resources uploaded onto our website, so that everyone can access them.

[D2N2's Black Lives Matter Group](#)

In response to the murder of George Floyd earlier this year, and the subsequent development of the Black Lives Matter movement, the D2N2 Teaching Partnership recognised that there was a need to review how we, as a Teaching Partnership – developing social workers for the future – accommodate and address the lived experiences of our black colleagues and students.

We were keen not to simply produce a statement on this – we wanted to focus on action and, to this end, we have set up a Black Lives Matter working group, to help us take this work forward. Made up of representatives from most of our partner organisations, the group will be holding its first meeting on 2nd November. We will feed back on their discussions and planned actions in our next newsletter.

If your organisation isn't already represented on this group, and you'd like to nominate someone – please contact Liz.Maslen@nottsc.gov.uk. Equally if you'd like to submit your own ideas or observations on addressing issues of racism in social work practice or

training, you can pass these through to Liz and these will be forwarded to the group.

[Nottinghamshire's TETC Team – Reflections on Black History Month](#)

Attendees at some of our events last year, will have met Sarah Lee and other members of Nottinghamshire's Tackling Emerging Threats to Children Team. This month, their newsletter has focussed and reflected on Black History Month and includes their personal observations about what that means, and why it needs to be a wider picture, and a constant focus – not just one month in the year. It's a personal perspective, but it does perhaps give us food for thought, and an opportunity to reflect with our own colleagues on the issues raised.



TETC Newsletter -
Oct 2020.pdf

Let's Keep in Touch!

We've been Tweeting as often as we can – so remember to follow us on our [Twitter](#) page [@D2N2SWTP](#) where we try to pass on useful snippets of information from across the social work sector.

You can also keep up with new developments via the [D2N2 website](#)

Remember too, that we've got a [Health & Wellbeing Hub](#), created specifically for social workers and managers – offering a range of support around parenthood, finance, relationships, mental health, care responsibilities, and more.

If you've got any news that you'd like us to include in future newsletters, please send your articles to: Liz.Maslen@nottsc.gov.uk

(next edition deadline will be 23rd December for January edition)