

Challenging times



I am here at home like the vast majority of workers across the UK. Firstly, I would like to personally thank all social workers for the continuing great job you are doing which is often overlooked with the media obsession with the more colourful professionals. As we

celebrate passing the 13,000 membership mark our celebrations are reduced as we never expected to be working in such a changed environment and the importance of social workers in the biggest challenge the country has faced in our lifetime. We all need to show solidarity and helping each other in the best way possible.

As social workers, we know the difference we make, and I am sure we all realise the ongoing challenges and reality of the situation ahead. Covid-19 presents a serious threat individually to our health but widely the very people we work with in the UK and the risks and challenges that this will create. We are aware that our most of our members need to provide stability of services in communities throughout the epidemic. We are committed to continuing to provide you with both advice and representation through this crisis in the best, safest ways possible.

To meet the requirements of this challenging situation and to serve members, we are changing our approach. We are stopping non-essential travel for BASW and SWU officers and putting in place strict protocols

for their attendance at face to face meetings. Where direct representation is needed, wherever possible we will do so via digital technologies - through teleconference, mobile phone, Skype, FaceTime, Zoom or other similar platforms.

We would like to reassure members that whilst the A& R team might have to work differently, we are still available to support members albeit with the possibility of this being remotely. Importantly, Advice and Representation will be doing all we can at this very difficult time for members to continue to support them in the best possible way that is available to us. Please continue to check the online courses at BASW and SWU for further information and they will be update regularly. Our colleagues at BASW continue to be keen to gather thoughts and share resources widely so please be part of this.

Finally, history will show the terrific work undertaken by the skilled and dedicated social workers who have continued to put themselves at risk and be proactive ensuring that children, young people, adults and communities remain protected and enabled in our communities. Now, more than anything else the Government needs to concentrate on ensuring that Social Workers have the funding and resources to carry out the clear functions ahead.

Please stay safe in this time. Without your support we simply wouldn't be able to maintain our services. I know these times are challenging for us all so now, more than ever, thank you.

Best wishes

John McGowan
General Secretary
j.mcgowan@swu-union.org.uk

SWU is delighted to sponsor 'Shout Out UK' and educating young people about what unions are!

SWU general secretary John McGowan said: "I am delighted that SWU is supporting the great work of Shout Out UK and supporting spreading the political knowledge to young people." John added: "Education materials do a disservice not only to unions, but to the students who will one day be a part of the workforce. Those students are not receiving a fair and accurate accounting of British labour history and the role of unions. They enter the workforce without understanding what unions are and how organised labour can help them secure the best possible working conditions."

However, says John, "Unions are always going to be dependent on the next generation for survival, which is why it is so important they are taught early the history and value of organised labour. Those who know and understand what it means to campaign for workers' rights may be more likely to support unions when they enter the workforce. Anything we can do with working with Shout Out UK and their enthusiasm to bring that part of Trade Union history to students will benefit political knowledge in the long run."

SWU is delighted to be supporting local Birmingham schools and hopefully our donation

of £2000 will develop a positive relationship and improve political literacy. Lessons like these help students gain critical thinking skills and give them an opportunity to learn about workers' rights and labour history, subjects that are often missing from classroom discussions."

Matteo Bergamini, CEO, Shout Out UK reports that Politics has changed dramatically. Yet, many people still gain their political information from their parents, the media, or vote due to vague social customs. Unfortunately, political literacy is still very much absent from the curriculum in all but the top private schools. This ensures politics remains the playground of the financially better off and while the sons and daughters of the higher echelons of society are educated in politics, the rest of us are not, creating a division within society.

Matteo explains that "currently, we assume that once we hit 18 years of age we suddenly become enlightened with all the political knowledge one needs to vote and engage. Of course, this not the case, it needs to be taught and understood in school. We treat English and Maths in very high regard, as two of the most important subjects. However, the one subject that allows us to be who we want to be,



gives us a voice and creates a society we wish to live in, we give no time to in schools.”

Matteo speaking to SWU recently highlights that “Political literacy would give us, the next generation, a clear understanding of what politics is, how our society works and why voting is relevant and important. We (Shout Out UK) are on a mission to help schools implement Political Literacy in the easiest way possible and we are proud to partner with the Social Workers Union (SWU) to make that happen!”

SWU will be supporting schools in Birmingham to run the Political Literacy programme! The programme covers an Introduction to British Politics (voting, Parliament, MPs), International

Relations, Trade Unionism and Political Theory (Left and Right wing, international bodies), Media Literacy (how to critically analyse the media and deal with misinformation) and Employability skills (debating and public speaking).

The programme’s is divided into three courses, which links to KEY STAGE 3, 4 and 5. This allows schools to implement it throughout with ease! Teachers will be able to use our ‘pick-up and go’ resources to run the course themselves, with a series of animations, editable slideshows and full teaching resources to help with delivery.

The world is shaped by those who understand politics, so if you're not doing politics... remember, politics is doing YOU!



Union Contact Update



At the time of writing we have cancelled Union Contact Induction Days. These are precarious times and we are frequently checking government and public health guidelines imposed by the spread of Covid-19. The health and wellbeing of our members and

activists is paramount, and there may be no inductions scheduled for the next few months.

On a more positive note, our first cohort of Phase 2 Union Contacts gathered at GFTU Quorn Grange Hotel over the weekend of 6th & 7th March. This was an information gathering exercise as well as a training event, and it enabled us to get an understanding of the thoughts, questions and concerns of the Union Contacts who will be undertaking the additional tasks in the Phase 2 role.

SWU Phase 2 Union Contacts are trained to assist in the following examples:

Stage 1 Sickness absence meetings - largely information-sharing meetings, usually triggered when an employee has been on sick leave for a given period of time.

Short notice meetings - when an employee is going to be suspended or advised about other action that is being proposed against them.

This can be particularly alarming and having someone else there to support and take notes at such times is invaluable.

Investigation meetings - when a member has been asked to attend as a 'witness' in an action against a colleague.

The Phase 2 training was delivered by three of our established Advice & Representation team members, Julie, Lyse & Kevin, and included trade union history, supporting colleagues, and dealing with potential scenarios. Further planning and development of Phase 2 is happening behind the scenes, and once this is completed the Phase 2 training will be rolled out fully. SWU Union Contacts who have completed their initial induction will be able to register to be part of the next cohort for training, and I look forward to hearing from you if you'd like further information.

Keep up the excellent work of promoting and encouraging membership of SWU in your workplaces and amongst student social workers. You'll see elsewhere in this Newsletter that we've now reached a membership of over 13,000 which is an excellent reflection of the hard work of our members and activists ... so thank you and keep well.

Carol Reid
National Organiser & Union Contact
Scheme Manager
carol.reid@swu-union.org.uk



Social worker wellbeing and working conditions toolkit launch date proposed



BASW in partnership with Bath Spa University and the Social Workers Union (SWU) have developed a wellbeing toolkit to support positive working conditions for social workers.

This toolkit is aimed at accelerating action across all parts of the workplace in the promotion of positive working conditions and wellbeing; engaging and empowering social workers and those that support them professionally, managerially and through local and national leadership.

Unfortunately the planned March launch was cancelled and presently waiting to assess a future launch date due to the present situation impacting on us all.

Social Media

If you have not done so then please follow us on Facebook and Twitter - we are planning to post and tweet regular updates about the work and developments of the Social Workers Union.

SWU Updates: <http://swu-updates.org.uk/>

Monthly ebulletins

Monthly ebulletins are emailed to all SWU members. If you are not receiving this then please check what email address we have. The ebulletins are also published on the web site.

SWU can be found on the following:

Twitter: SWU_UK

Facebook: www.facebook.com/socialworkersunionuk/

Internet: www.swu-union.org.uk

Social Work, Integration and Integrity

SWU Assistant General Secretary, Lien Watts, reports on the recent Standing Conference for Social Work and Social Workers

I was pleased to be asked to attend the 3rd UK Standing Conference for Social Work and Social Workers in Manchester on the 5th March in my capacity of AGS of SWU. Of course, with everything that has happened recently, it seems like a very long time has passed since then, but it was actually just three weeks ago! It was, of course, the last BASW public event to be held before the rise of Covid-19 in the UK - and just before Flybe went into liquidation. I mention that because Flybe flew me to Manchester, and then abandoned me there - but that's another story!

The theme of the conference was "Social Work, Integration and Integrity - Exploring our Role, Improving Quality". Initially, I feared it would be just a re-hash of everything we've discussed on these matters over many years, but in fact, it turned out to be an excellent conference! It was engaging from the start with the content being delivered by inspiring speakers and presenters and was peppered throughout with thought-provoking poetry and the usual mix of informative workshops.

One very interesting presentation entitled "What matters in integration" was given by Cath Gormally, Director of Social Care in Salford. She spoke about their very successful model of integration where she felt that the "strength of the social work model" was truly valued by all the other professions - something that is often cited as a barrier to integrated working. Its success, she said, was largely based on mutual trust but also spoke about the funding that was attached to the programme, saying that everybody working in their integrated care organisation spoke about "the Salford pound" (as opposed to the NHS pound!).

At the end of her presentation, we broke into small groups to discuss models of integration and I asked colleagues around the table what they thought they could do to improve their experience of it. The answer was a resounding "move to Salford"!



Another positive (and entertaining) speaker was Steve Walker, Director of Children's Services for Leeds Council. He spoke about how access to social services, for some services-users, brought feelings of shame and stigma, but he argued that working in an integrated way with other professions made it "easier to cut through" those well-documented perceptions and can help in developing positive working relationships with families. Leeds have developed a comprehensive 'Children's Plan' which, he said, focussed on retaining and developing successful relationships. As a social worker who was always committed to "working together" with service users as well as other professionals, I thought this was a helpful concept.

This is just a very brief 'mention' of some of the things that struck a chord with me - the programme was so full, it would be impossible to report on everything that was shared, but it was the 'whole package' that made it such a worthwhile event. Thank you to everyone who contributed to it and to those who worked hard to plan and deliver it.

Thank you, too, to Cross Country trains who eventually managed to get me back to the South Coast - even if it was after midnight when I finally reached my home!

Lien Watts
Assistant General Secretary
SWU

SWU 2020 Annual Conference and General Meeting

Friday 25th September 2020

The 2020 Annual General Meeting of the Social Workers Union will be held at
The Mechanics Centre, 103 Princess Street, Manchester M1 6DD

The timetable is as follows:

31 st July 2020	Deadline for receipt of motions
4 th September 2020	Notice of any proposed amendment to rules given in writing to members
18 th September 2020	Deadline for amendments to motions

Motions must be signed by 10 members and submitted to the Executive Committee by the above date.

Amendments to motions must also be signed by 10 members.

**Please visit www.swu-union.org.uk to register your attendance.
Entry to this event is FREE for SWU members.**

We are always willing to assist union members with the drafting of motions.
Please send an email to joanne.marciano@swu-union.org.uk for such assistance.

Motions must be submitted by email to joanne.marciano@swu-union.org.uk

Membership numbers must be stated and will be checked.

**The Social Workers Union, Wellesley House
37 Waterloo Road, Birmingham B2 5PP**

www.swu-union.org.uk

Joint member information on service variation during coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic.

SWU update

We would like to reassure members that whilst the A&R team might have to work differently, we are still available to support members albeit with the possibility of this being remotely. Importantly, Advice and Representation will be doing all we can at this very difficult time for members to continue to support them in the best possible way that is available to us.

COVID-19 is already having an effect in workplaces. Large numbers are likely to be absent at any one time as the virus spreads. This will include not only those who become ill, or must self-isolate, but in the event of schools closing, many workers with children will find it impossible to go to work. Likewise, those who have partners or dependents who become ill may also stay at home. This would have a major impact on all aspects of health and social care, as well as on the economy as whole.

Self-isolation

Self-isolation, or quarantine, is encouraged to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Anyone who has, or who may have, been exposed to the virus is recommended to limit the number of people they come into contact with for 14 days. The government and local health protection teams are advising people to self-isolate if they are:

- Waiting for a COVID-19 test result
- Identified as being a close contact of someone with coronavirus
- Returning from travel in certain locations. You can find an up-to-date list on the government's website: <https://publichealthmatters.blog.gov.uk/2020/02/20/what-is-self-isolati...>;

The government has also set out guidance on measures to take while in isolation, including interacting with other people in your home: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-self...>;

Some employers will also have their own recommendations and requirements for self-isolation.

Home working

One of the obvious precautions employers are likely to take in a major health crisis is to give staff the opportunity to work from home. This should generally be encouraged, but there must be systems in place to enable them to do so. That means looking at issues around IT, including broadband capacity and the management and coordination of work and issues to do with confidentiality and client information.

Dealing with sickness absence

Some employers are planning for high rates of absenteeism. This is on the basis that it will not only be those who are ill that are unable to come into work, but also those looking after family members who are ill or those with children in the event of schools being closed. In addition, in the event of a severe pandemic, some staff will be afraid to come into work for fear of contracting the virus. There may also be difficulties with public transport.

Statutory Sick pay

The law on sick pay is complicated and affects sections of the workforce differently.

To qualify for Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) you must:

- be classed as an employee
- have been ill for at least 4 days in a row (this can include non-working days), however the government has temporarily changed the rules on this meaning payment will come in from day 1 for COVID-19 symptoms or self-isolation.
- earn an average of at least £118 per week

Tell your employer you're sick before their deadline - or within 7 days if they do not have one. The SSP payment is currently £94.25 per week. However, you will not qualify if you:

- have already received the maximum amount of SSP, which is 28 weeks
- are already in receipt of Statutory Maternity Pay

You will also no longer eligible for SSP if you have a continuous series of linked periods of illness that lasts more than 3 years.

If you fall into these categories, you may instead be able to apply for Universal Credit or Employment and Support Allowance, and the government has made temporary changes meaning you will not have to attend a Job Centre to do so. The government has also made emergency changes allowing small businesses with fewer than 250 employees to reclaim the cost of SSP payments from the government, in addition to a loan and grant which can be accessed for disruption of service.

Occupational sick pay

Most workers will receive sick pay as set out in their contracts, but there will be variations on this. Many employers will have an occupational sick pay offer, which will be more generous than Statutory Sick Pay. Some employers have been reported as asking workers to cover periods of self-isolation with annual leave or unpaid leave. This is completely unacceptable, and you should resist any moves along those lines.

Certification of sickness absence

Normally an employer will require a doctor's certificate, or 'fit note', after 7 days absence. In cases of COVID-19, symptoms are likely to last more than 7 days, and if you're in isolation, symptoms can take days still to appear. Since anyone unwell or in isolation is recommended to not leave home, it can be difficult to obtain a doctors' certificate if your surgery is not online.

Government lawyers have ruled that an e-mail confirmation of diagnoses will be enough for COVID-19, and workers can now access these via the NHS 111 line. This will cover anyone unwell with suspected or confirmed COVID-19, or in isolation but not yet displaying symptoms.

KNOW YOUR LAW

Section 64 of the Employment Rights Act states:

(1) An employee who is suspended from work by his employer on medical grounds is entitled to be paid by his employer remuneration while he is so suspended for a period not exceeding twenty-six weeks.

(5) For the purposes of this Part an employee shall be regarded as suspended from work on medical grounds only if and for so long as he -

(a) continues to be employed by his employer, but

(b) is not provided with work or does not perform the work he normally performed before the suspension.

Workplace closure

There is no legal right for employees to be paid under circumstances of workplace closure. Allowing home working where it is possible, or to consider absences under the sick pay policy. Taking time off to ensure the safety and health of themselves and their co-workers is a responsible measure and no worker should be penalised for it. Nor should they face a risk of going to work while ill and spreading the virus because they cannot otherwise sustain themselves. The UK government is yet to provide specific guidance on this, but this may change as emergency legislation is expected.

The ACAS guidance contains a little more in relation to employment rights/processes: <https://www.acas.org.uk/coronavirus>

Preparing for COVID-19: Making a plan

The employer must actually go through the process of considering what effect all the different possible scenarios would have on their staff and how they operate, right up to the worst likely situation of workplace closure, disruption to transport, and the disruptions to other services such as banking, the internet, supply chains.

What employers should do

In addition to providing adequate sick pay, there are number of other measures which can be taken to help limit the spread of the virus, including:

- The provision of hand sanitisers and for employers to maintain high levels of cleanliness in the workplace.
- The cancellation of any requests for workers to travel to locations the government has warned against visiting.
- Provision of ongoing information and advice from Public Health England and other relevant bodies to all employees.

Workplace hygiene

Any employers will plan to step up their cleaning regimes in the event of an outbreak. There may be proposals to switch off air conditioning systems in large open plan offices or workshops as a way of preventing the virus spreading. Be careful with this. Air conditioning can dilute contaminated air and provide a more comfortable environment, and generally the air being recirculated is the same that would ordinarily be in the room. Where someone in a workplace tests positive for COVID-19, employers should be expected to carry out a deep clean by specialist cleaning teams.

Personal hygiene

Employers should work to protect their staff by safeguarding workplaces to the best of their ability. This can include the provision of hand sanitisers and other cleaning equipment, and for employers to maintain high levels of cleanliness in the workplace. Generally, providing facilities for workers to wash their hands is the most basic and most effective provision an employer can take. This is one area which employers can start taking action on straight away. Many people will simply think that the best way of preventing the spread of the virus is to stay at home while showing symptoms. While this is true, many people can be infectious without showing symptoms.

Personal Protective Equipment

In some workplaces, workers are being provided with additional Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) as precautionary measures. There is no evidence that, outside health care situations, the general use of facemasks has any actual effect on protecting people or reducing the speed of a pandemic's development. In fact, the surgical paper masks most commonly seen offer little in the way of protection. They can reduce viral droplets being expelled by the wearer if they already have the virus, but they will not go a long way in preventing exposure. In a worst case scenario, these types of masks may even increase virus replication, as the breathe causes masks to become damp and humid.

Gloves do not prevent infection as people will still touch their skin with the gloves and then touch another surface or person. Latex gloves carry significant risks of producing an allergic reaction and were they to be used during an outbreak there would be problems of disposal. The use of hand sanitizing liquid is slightly different. It may be that some public organisations will make it available at key entry areas or where there is likely to be contact between people.

Providing information, advice and guidance

There is a duty on employers to keep workers informed with up-to-date, reliable information from sources like the Department for Health and Public Health England. There are various sources of misinformation circling, which can cause undue stress, or even lead to workers taking measures which may end up causing more harm, not less. Management should also ensure that relevant contact numbers are up to date and readily available, and that they have received any necessary training on understanding COVID-19 and the measures needed should an outbreak be suspected.

Home Visits?

In most workplaces, the risk of an outbreak is low. However, there are many sectors that may require more specific precautions. Specific risk assessments under Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (COSHH) should be performed in such workplaces.

Where work involves visiting a person in their own home the employer should notify service users and customers that they should advise them if any person in the household is suffering from COVID-19 symptoms. If the work is non-urgent then no visits should take place for that period.

In the event of the visit being necessary, the employer should take steps to ensure that the employee is not put at risk with proper training and protective measures.

People returning from some areas of the world are being told to self-isolate depending on the location they have visited and their symptoms. People who have been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 are also being advised by the local Health Protection Team to self-isolate. People who are self-isolating and have no symptoms do not pose a risk to others. They are self-isolating to allow closer monitoring in order to identify early symptoms, and to enable prompt medical action if required.

If a person is in self-isolation, health and social care staff should ascertain if the individual has symptoms prior to their visit. It may become necessary to suspend some home visits and alternative arrangements must be put in place to maintain contact (e.g. telephone liaison). Health and social care staff performing non-deferrable essential visits (for example, child protection & adult protection) to households where there is an individual self-isolating, should follow the guidance below:

If the person receiving the home visit has no symptoms

As the person has no symptoms there is no need to change your approach.

If the person receiving the home visit has symptoms

If during a telephone consultation with a client or their family member / representative to assess their suitability for a domiciliary visit, it is thought that COVID-19 is a possibility then a domiciliary visit should be avoided. Instead, call the client's GP or NHS 24 (phone 111) for further advice.

If during a home visit it is thought that COVID-19 is a possibility, then:

- avoid any further physical contact with the person, if you can. The person should remain in the room with the door closed.
- advise anyone with you not to enter the room.
- ask the patient or their family member/representative to call their GP or NHS 24 for further advice.
- inform your manager and contact your local Health Protection Team for advice.
- if the client or resident is seriously ill and requires urgent medical attention, phone 999 and inform the ambulance call handler of the potential links to COVID-19.

If after assessment the person has a negative COVID-19 test, then no further action is required. If after assessment the person has a positive COVID-19 test, then the local Health Protection Team will be in contact with you and will carry out a risk assessment, identify people who have been in contact with the case and advise on any actions or precautions that need to be taken.”

Other sources for information:

- NHS advice on Coronavirus (COVID-19): <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>
- World Health Organisation, Getting your workplace ready for COVID-19: <https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/getting-workplace-ready-for-covid-19.pdf>
- Health and Safety Executive, Coronavirus (COVID-19), latest information and advice: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/news/coronavirus.htm>
- The ACAS guidance contains a little more in relation to employment rights/processes: <https://www.acas.org.uk/coronavirus>
- Helpful [guidance to unions](#) has also been issued by the TUC for trade union reps and it gives an understanding of the workplace issues in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thanks to the Trades Union Council for additional Information.

SWU LEGAL SERVICES



As a SWU member you have access to the expert legal team at Morrish Solicitors.

Whether you want to buy or sell a house, create or update your will, claim compensation after an injury or claim for medical negligence, Morrish Solicitors can help. We've been working with Trade Unions for over 120 years and are proud to always represent the people, never companies or insurance firms.

Contact us for more information.

Through your SWU membership you receive exclusive benefits including:

- Free personal injury service
- 10% discount on wills and probate
- 10% discount on residential conveyancing
- 10% discount on family and matrimonial legal services
- 10% discount on criminal/motoring offences and court litigation

T: 033 3344 9600

E: info@morrishsolicitors.com

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Thoughts to consider

Angi Naylor Chair of Austerity Action Group & SWU Executive Member provides some recent updates

As I write this piece World Social Work Day 2020 #WSWD was just a week ago. Its theme PROMOTING THE IMPORTANCE OF HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS. A week ago! Seven days ago! Since then all of our worlds have turned upside down and inside out and we are probably going to be spun round and round some more before we start to comprehend what has just become of the world we live in and start to process of rebuilding it. Along that way we will see and more than likely experience many acts of human kindness. One or two colleagues have posted on social media that they want to record what is happening, but are not sure where or how to start. A number of social work students have posted that they are finding studying impossible. Those statements themselves are valuable and I encourage you to keep recording no matter how brief or disjointed. A time will come when we can collate these and show how we as a profession used our skills to support others but most of all to support ourselves and our nearest and dearest during these unprecedented times.

Traditionally WSWD has been an opportunity for SWU to launch its annual student essay competitions this year is no exception. Obviously, the title was set before the virus took hold but I think it very adapt for the coming months and I hope that it might be just the thing to enable students to get back to studying. The extra incentives are that it is only 750 - 1000 words long and the best four will each receive £500. **“Working Better Together - How do we build stronger relationships between social workers and people who use services?”** Of course, the title may also act as a spur to any SWU member needing something to focus on.

Looking back over my years as a social worker I was trying to think of similar experiences of dealing with a public health crisis of this magnitude - my first thoughts took me back to my childhood and an outbreaks of polio, later in my teens foot and mouth stopped us walking over the fields to school but it was this tweet that brought home to me that we have been here before.

***“I’m not working from home because I’m afraid of catching something.
I’m working from home because I’m afraid of infecting someone.”***

The lightbulb moment happened and I replied:



“Austerity, as practiced by Osborne, was essentially a **political choice** rather than an economic necessity, and the human costs have been huge”. but much more than that it’s been the systematic stripping back of welfare services alongside contracting out of services - which today and in the coming weeks poses hundred questions many of which are being shared by BASW as they feed our concerns up to government. One thing that struck me about this new way of working and it struck me before the current situation, was what would happen in the case of a major incident. Many years ago I had noted and understood why the last line of every one of my local authority job description/contract said:

“and any other duties that the Director of Social Service deems necessary.”

I will leave you to muse that one over .

Boot Out Austerity is Marching On and we will still be challenging the government - now and in the future as I've shown in this tweet about statutory sick pay -



Whilst I personally will be carrying out my motto:

"A Folk Singer's Job is to Comfort Disturbed People and to Disturb the Comfortable"

Continuing to champion the rights of those who cannot fight to Boot Out Austerity through song and verse. Take Care of Yourself. Please keep an eye out on Facebook & YouTube for postings by me Angi Naylor as well as the Boot Out Austerity & SWU media pages.

SWU offering £500 in student essay competition

Four grants of £500 to the best arguments for how to build better relationships!

The Social Workers Union (SWU) have announced the theme for their annual World Social Work Day student essay competition.

The question posed is: **Working Better Together: How do we build stronger relationships between social workers and people using services?**

The question links with the BASW Future of Social Work e-book project with the winning SWU entries being part of the online BASW publication:

<https://www.basw.co.uk/call-essays-poems-and-visual-images-future-social-work>

The four most compelling arguments within the word limit of 750-1000 words will win a grant of £500 each.

The competition is open to university students only and all UK universities will be contact this week. A flyer with further details can be seen on the following page.

John McGowan, general secretary of SWU, said: "I am delighted that the interest in our assignment competition grows each year and the calibre of entries is strong. The relationship between social worker and the service user is a key element of the process of engaging and working together.

Connecting with and actively engaging service users will make them feel at ease when they link with services; so, what better theme to have for our future social workers."

WORLD SOCIAL WORK DAY ASSIGNMENT

Four grants of £500 are to be presented to winning Social Work Students undertaking an Undergraduate or Post Graduate Social Work Degree.

The criteria: a 750 - 1000 word assignment with the following title:

“Working better together: How do we build stronger relationships between social workers and people using services?”

All completed assignments will be judged by a Panel including representation from the General Federation of Trade Unions (GFTU), Jon Dudley, BASW Hon Officer and a marker from SWU Exec. All winners will be invited to the SWU AGM and Conference 2020 (Fri 25th Sept, Manchester).

The closing date for the competition is Friday 5th June 2020.

The winning entries will be published in the BASW: The BASW Future of Social Work e-book project which is part of the Heritage 50 BASW project. Please forward your completed assignment before that date with a covering letter giving your Name, Address, University, Year of Study and Academic Tutor (if appropriate) to: joanne.marciano@swu-union.org.uk

The assignment should be typed, have your full name, the assignment question as the title, and must follow an academic process; such as word count and Harvard Referencing System.

Please note: By taking part you are agreeing to SWU using the assignment for future purposes such as newsletters or other forums. Only the winning assignments will be used. Winning assignments will be displayed at the forthcoming SWU AGM Conference. All winners will also be offered a delegate place at the conference with a contribution towards transport if necessary.



PROMOTING THE IMPORTANCE
of Human Relationships



SWU Social Workers Union

**WORLD SOCIAL WORK DAY
17TH MARCH 2020**

#WSWD2020



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