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A Future for Social Care and Social Work

1. What's changed for Social Care and Social Work?
2. What's special and important about Social Care and Social Work?
3. How to promote and protect what is special and important?

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What's Changed for Social Care and Social Work?

- **Remembering the History:**
 - 1970 LASSA
 - established social services departments within local government
 - brought together x 3 separate services
 - required appointment of statutory director of social services
 - gave wide-ranging powers and duties to social services authorities
 - supporting legislation such as 1969 CYPA and 1970 CSDPA

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What's Changed for Social Care and Social Work?

Remembering the History:

- formation of BASW as a professional voice
- formation of ADSS (and ADSW) as a managerial voice
- formation of SCA as a practitioner voice

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What's Changed for Social Care and Social Work?

Remembering the History:

- 4 year undergraduate degree programmes for social work
(eg Keele; Bradford; Bath; Lancaster)
- Social Work Service within Dept of Health
- Chief Social Work Service Officer in Dept of Health
(Joan Cooper; Bill Utting; Herbert Laming; Denise Platt)

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What's Changed for Social Care and Social Work?

For 30 years :

- Clear legal structure and mandates
- Strong organisational base
- Strong political presence
- Strong managerial representation
- Strong professional career paths
- Professional Association
- Professional Education and Qualification Programmes

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What's Changed for Social Care and Social Work?

After 30 years :

1. Demise of SSDs
 - CSSRs (impact of LGR)
 - Children's Trusts
 - Care Trusts.
2. Social Care and Social Work delivered even more within a mixed economy
3. Social Care and Social Work no longer the primary service or profession within new organisations (eg YOTs; CMHTs; CTPLDs; Reablement Services; Sure Start; Children's Fund)

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What's Changed for Social Care and Social Work?

After 30 years :

4. Political presence for Social Care and Social Work reduced (eg no Chief Inspector in DoH; DOSS role not to be protected; new role of Children's Director)

5. Value–base of Social Care and Social Work challenged (eg Criminal Justice changes; Mental Health changes; Community Safety agendas)



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What's Special and to be Protected?

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What's Special and to be Protected?

Perspective on Protecting and Promoting

- People in Context
- Valuing not rejecting
- Recognising and developing strengths
- Enabling and facilitating
- Promoting independence

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What's Special and to be Protected?

What is Social Work?

“Social work is the purposeful and ethical *application of personal skills in interpersonal relationships* directed towards *enhancing the personal and social functioning* of an individual, family, group or neighbourhood”
(BASW 1977)

Principles of Practice

- “
- human dignity and worth
 - social justice
 - service to humanity
 - integrity
 - competence
- ”

(BASW 1986; 2002)

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What's Special and to be Protected?

Values , Principles, Skills and Competence

Biestek

- non-judgemental
- self-determination

Barclay

- counselling
- social planning



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What's Special and to be Protected?

Culture and Values Continuum (Dichotomy?)

Health Services	Social Care Services
Ill-health	Well-being
Individual as sick person	Individual as whole person
Condition/Illness	The person in their family and social situation
Health Episode	Whole life Context
“Done to”	“Done With”
Single Dimension	Multi-dimensional
Governance Appointed	Governance Elected
Prescribing	Deciding
Institutions	Networks
Individual Experts	Variety of Enablers
Protection	Risk Management
Ill-health treatment	Support for well-being

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How to Protect and Promote?

Government Initiatives:

- General Social Care Council (GSCC)
 - registration of social workers
 - protection of title of “social worker”
 - new graduate profession
 - new requirements re: CPD
- Skills Sector Council (TOPPS)
 - competencies defined for social care workers
 - qualification route for social care workers (eg NVQs)

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How to Protect and Promote?

Government Initiatives:

- Commission for Social Care Inspectorate (CSCI)
 - definition of service standards
 - service inspection
 - service registration
- Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE)
 - “Better Knowledge for Better Practice”
 - Collate, Translate, Disseminate, Promote, Evaluate



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How to Protect and Promote?

But Governments:

- pragmatic not primarily principled
- not professionally partisan (or impressed!)
- have their own political agendas
- are populists
- change!

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How to Protect and Promote?

Therefore:

- Government established and funded organisations
(eg GSCC; CSCI ; SCIE)
not secure or necessarily stable or independent (NCSC; CHI)

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How to Protect and Promote?

- 1. A strong professional voice**
 - **BASW (and SCA)**
- 2. A strong evidence base**
- 3. A strong education base**
 - **Assembly for Social Care and Social Work Education and Research**
- 4. A personal and professional commitment to develop , promote and protect the value and competence-base of Social Care and Social Work**

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