



University of Sussex

Education & Social Work

CONSULTATION OF CARERS FOR THE NEW COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK

The University of Sussex is pleased to have been asked to carry out consultations with carers to ensure that carers views are at the heart of the development of the new **National College of Social Work**. The comments and experiences of carers who take part will be used to help form this new National College.

In September and October 2010 we will be inviting carers living in England to complete a web questionnaire. This web questionnaire can be found at: www.sussex.ac.uk/carers

We are asking for your help to let carers know about this. The questionnaire is open of all carers living in England and, in addition, we are particularly eager to reach carers who identify themselves as part of a seldom heard group, by which we mean:

Black and Minority Ethnic (BME)	Traveller, Romany
Lesbian, Gay, Bi and Transsexual (LGBT)	Working Carer
Young adult (18-30)	Rural and isolated
Asylum seeking, Refugee	
Or caring for someone with a Substance Misuse issue	

A printed version of the questionnaire, with prepaid return, is available on request for carers who do not have access to the internet.

We will ensure that carers' comments are made anonymous for the consultation and we will also make sure carers have access to a copy of the report of the findings. Carers will also be able to track how the college uses their comments on the College website. All carers who complete a questionnaire will be given the option of entering a £50 prize draw to be provided as vouchers for a main retail outlet as chosen by the winner.

We will also be running four live regional consultation events:

Lincoln	Tuesday 21 st September 2010
Bury St Edmunds	Tuesday 28 th September 2010
London	Wednesday 6 th October 2010
Farnborough	Wednesday 13 th October 2010

These events will run from 10:45am to 3:30pm and are open to carers living in the respective regions. In the event that there are more carers interested than spaces available carers will be selected on the bases of where they live.

All carers attending these events will be offered their expenses (including the costs of replacement care if needed) and will also be offered a fee in recognition of their contribution provided this does not affect their welfare benefits arrangements.

We will also be running a three part live internet consultation event supported by the Carers World Radio team; running from 7:30pm to 8:30pm on Monday 11th, Tuesday 12th and Wednesday 13th of October 2010. This event is for any carer living in England who has appropriate internet access and who is unable to leave their home due to their caring roll.

Details about all these consultations can be found at www.sussex.ac.uk/socialwork/carers

You can also contact the consultation team for more information at:

Andy Cheng, University of Sussex, 01273 876689, a.cheng@sussex.ac.uk

or

Tish Marrable, University of Sussex, 01273 606755 x2212,

L.F.Marrable@sussex.ac.uk

More information:

The College of Social Work is being established following a major review of adults' and children's social work services in England by the Social Work Task Force.

The Task Force made the following recommendation:

“We are recommending the establishment of an independent national college of social work. This will articulate and promote the interests of good social work. It will give the profession itself strong, independent leadership; a clear voice in public debate, policy development and policy delivery; and strong ownership of the standards to be upheld.”¹

The College of Social Work does not exist yet. A major consultation exercise is being carried out between May – October 2010 to agree the purpose and functions of The College. The College development group are aiming to consult with social workers, service users and carers. The University of Sussex has been asked to arrange the consultation with carers in England as a part of this exercise.

The College of Social Work development group have come up with ideas about the purpose and function of the college.

(These can be seen at: <http://www.collegeofsocialwork.org/files/purposeandfunction.pdf>)

All the consultations will be focused on a discussion of these purposes and functions.

¹ Building a safe, confident future: The final report of the Social Work Task Force: November 2009

Suggested notice for carers:

Dear Carer,

At the heart of Local Authority support: a chance to help form the new National College of Social Work.

We would like to invite you to get involved in the development a new **National College of Social Work** which will play a major role in how social workers are trained and governed in England.

We want to ensure that your views are at the heart of this development.

There are three ways you can get involved:

1)

Please fill in a questionnaire about your experiences and views about Social Work. You can do this online by following the link on www.sussex.ac.uk/socialwork/carers (available from the 1st of September).

If you do not have access to the internet, please contact us (details below) and we will send you a printed copy with a prepaid reply envelope. Once you have completed the questionnaire you are welcome to enter a free prize draw for **£50 in gift vouchers**. (these will for a main retail outlet as chosen by the winner.)

2)

If you live in, or are able to travel the area - please register to come to one of our live consultation events.

These will be:

Lincoln	Tuesday 21 st September 2010
Bury St Edmunds	Tuesday 28 th September 2010
London	Wednesday 6 th October 2010
Farnborough	Wednesday 13 th October 2010

These events will run from 10:45am to 3:30pm and lunch will be provided.

All carers selected to come to these events will be offered their expenses (including the costs of replacement care if needed) and will also be **offered a fee** in recognition of their contribution provided this does not affect their welfare benefits arrangements.

3)

If your caring role means you are not able to leave your home, but you have Skype and internet access you can register for our live internet consultation. This will take place in three parts running from 7:30pm to 8:30pm on Monday 11th, Tuesday 12th and Wednesday 13th of October 2010.

We will ensure that your comments are made anonymous and we will also make sure you have access to a copy of the report of the findings of this consultation. You will also be able to track how the college uses carers comments on the College website.

For more information, request a printed questionnaire or to register for a live event please contact:

Andy Cheng, University of Sussex, 01273 876689, a.cheng@sussex.ac.uk

Or

Tish Marrable, University of Sussex, 01273 606755 x2212, L.F.Marrable@sussex.ac.uk