

Consultation on Professional Standards

Your response

There are six questions relating to the rules and three relating to impact assessment. Please specify to what extent you agree or disagree with the education and training standards we have proposed, which can be found on the Social Work England website. There is opportunity throughout this survey for further comment.

The deadline for responding to this consultation is 5pm Wednesday 1 May 2019. We welcome your views both here and in future consultations to improve our profession.

About you

We would like to ask for some basic personal information about you. This information will help us understand how well we are reaching different audiences and make sure we understand the impact of our proposals on diverse groups. We will collect and use the information to:

- Listen to your ideas about our services.
- Evaluate and improve services.

A full privacy statement can be found on the Social Work England website.

- a. What is your name?

Sarah Saunders and Pete Bentley on behalf of Nagalro

- b. What is your email address?

nagalro@nagalro.com

- c. Would you like your response to be kept confidential by Social Work England? Would you like your response to be kept confidential by Social Work England? Please tick.

Yes

No

d. Which of the following best describes the capacity in which you are responding to this consultation? Please tick.

- Adult social care – other
- Adult social care – social worker
- Charity or non-governmental organisation
- Children's social care – other
- Children's social care – social worker
- Higher education institution/academia
- Local authority
- Mental health services
- Other health services
- Person with lived experience of social work
- Social work student
- Prefer not to say
- Other

e. Are you responding to this consultation on behalf of an organisation?

- Yes
- No

2. If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please fill in the below.

a. What is the name of your organisation?

Nagalro, The Professional Association for Children's Guardians, Family Court Advisers and Independent Social Workers.

b. Please chose the category below that best describes your organisation

- Education provider
- Employer
- Professional body
- Regulator

- Charity and/or voluntary sector organisation
- Other

3. Professional standards

To what extent do you agree the standards are relevant to current social work practice?

- 1 (strongly disagree)
- 2
- 3 (neither)
- 4
- 5 (strongly agree)

4. If you would like to add further comments, please do so below.

Nagalro is pleased to note that SWE has given a stronger focus on social work practice in setting out standards. However, these standards will only be effective if SWE is actively protecting the ability of social workers to carry out their duties when working with people with lived experience of social work. If a regulator is to command the respect of those to be regulated it must enforce the agreed professional standards, but the reciprocal duty is to robustly support those who are seeking to carry out their duties in accordance with their professional duties. SWE will need to take a lead in ensuring that social workers are able to carry out their duties in accordance with professional standards and be able to feel that SWE will be firm in their support for members of the workforce who carry out their work in a manner that is in accordance with the legislation and the professional standards. Some thought may need to be given to the drafting of, particularly section 1, of the draft professional standards. Whilst each part is highly commendable, it must also be recognised that much work involves the balancing of competing rights. It is difficult, for example, to imagine how a social worker dealing with child-protection matters could fail to breach 1.5 in relation to the parents of a child who was removed from their care. It might assist if section 1 began by saying 'As a social worker, I will, within the constraints and duties imposed upon me by the law:'

5. To what extent do you agree that the standards reflect the relationship social workers have with people?

- 1 (strongly disagree)
- 2
- 3 (neither)

4

X5 (strongly agree)

6. If you would like to add further comments, please do so below.

None

7. To what extent do you agree that the language is appropriate?

1 (strongly disagree)

2

3 (neither)

4

X5 (strongly agree)

8. If you would like to add further comments, please do so below.

None

9. Is there anything in the standards you don't understand?

No

10. Is there anything missing?

No

11. Do you have any other comments?

No

12. Impact assessment questions

Do you think that the proposed changes will bring benefits for you, your organisation or those you represent?

Yes

No

13. If yes, what impact do you foresee?

It will better equip our members to fulfil their statutory responsibilities.

14. Do you think that the proposed changes will impact differently on people based on protected characteristics?

The Equality Act (2010) lists nine protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership, and pregnancy and maternity.

Yes

No

15. If yes, which characteristics?

Choose as many as you like

Age

Disability

Gender reassignment

Race

Religion or belief

Sex

Sexual orientation

Marriage and civil partnership

Pregnancy and maternity

Please fill this in

16. Do you think the proposed changes will adversely affect you, your organisation, or those you represent?

See answer to Question 4.

17. If yes, what impact do you foresee?

Thank you for taking part in this consultation.

Once the consultation period has finished, we will provide a response which will summarise the feedback we receive and detail any changes we make.