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Championing Social Care and Social Work

1. Why now?
2. What to champion?
3. How to do it?

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Why now?

1. The demise of:

- Social Services (and Social Work) Departments
- Directors of Social Services
- New infrastructure bodies (CSCI)

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Why now?

2. The advent of:

- New integrated organisations
- New inspectorates
- Multi-disciplinary and multi-agency teams
- New job/role shapes and definitions
- More of a mixed/diverse economy

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Why now?

3. The fight over values:

- Social inclusion
- Civil rights and social justice
- Potential, capacity and well-being

v

- Stigmatisation and stereotyping
- Exclusion and punishment
- Threat and control

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What to Champion?

- The historical track record
- The current contribution
- The future potential

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The Historical Track Record



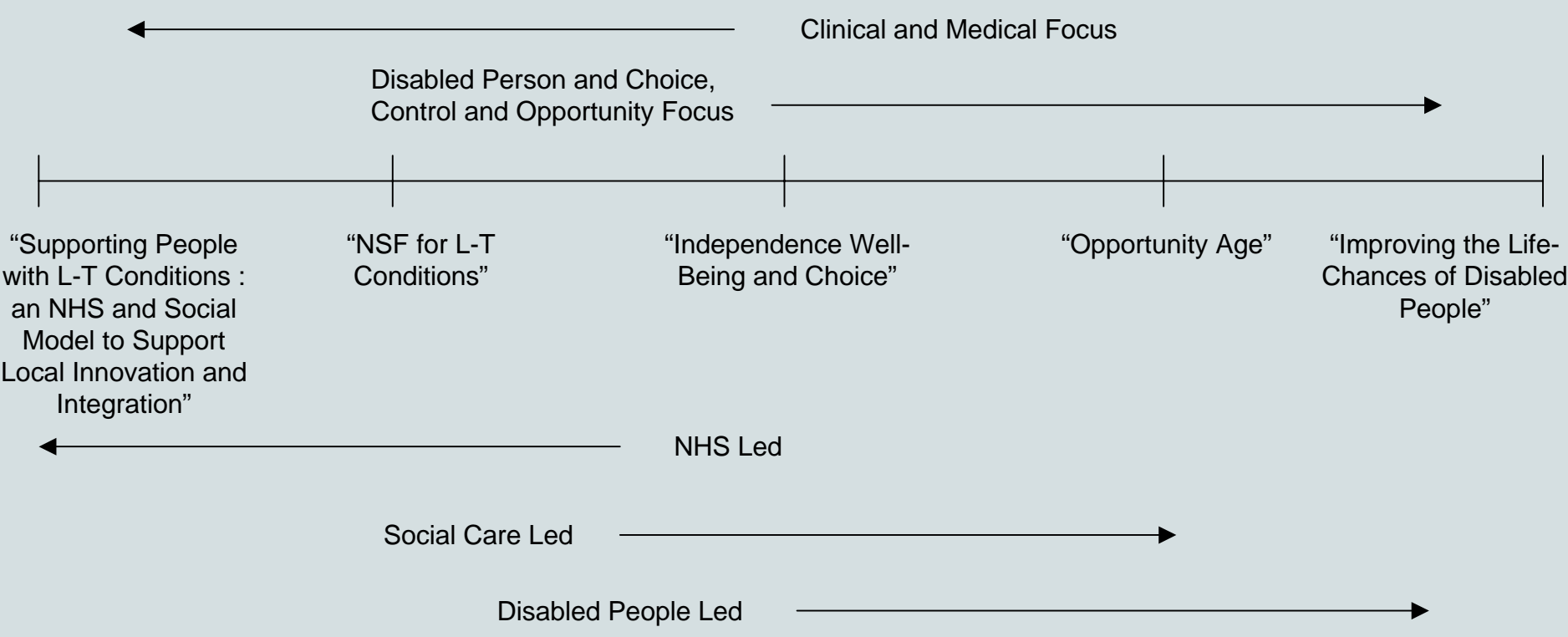
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The Current Context:

The topical example of
“long-term conditions” and disabled
people

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Long-Term Conditions and Disabled People



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From “Independence, Well-Being and Choice” (DH, March 2005):

“For too long social work has been perceived as a gatekeeper or rationer of services and has been accused, sometimes unfairly, of fostering dependence rather than independence.

We want to create a different environment, which reinforces the social work core values of **supporting individuals to take control of their own lives**, and to **make the choices which matter to them**.

We therefore emphasise the role that skilled social work will continue to play in **assessing the needs of people** with complex problems and in **developing constructive relationships** with people who need long-term support.”

(p10)

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From “Independence, Well-Being and Choice” (DH, March 2005):

“While skilled social work is not essential for all assessments, we expect it to continue to be key in:

- The assessment of needs for people with complex problems and where there is a significant impact on families and carers including children and young people in the family. The need for skilled social work is NOT to replace the views of the person who needs care; the **skill is to find out what people themselves want**;
- The **development of constructive relationships** and **specific therapeutic interventions** to assist people needing long-term support for themselves and in their roles within families as parents and carers;
- **Co-ordinating services** and **negotiating systems** to meet complex needs and maintain positive outcomes;
- **Assessing risks** to individuals and to the community”

(p32)

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What's Special?

Perspective on Seeing Potential, Promoting and Protection

- People in context
- Valuing not rejecting
- Realism within idealism
- Recognising and developing strengths and skills
- Enabling and facilitating
- Being an ally in promoting independence

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What's Special?

1960s	Biestek	(1961)
1970s	BASW	(1977)
1980s	Barclay	(1982)
1990s	Bamford	(1990)
2000s	ADSS	(2003)
	Gilroy	(2004)
	Higham	(2005)

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What's Special?

(1961)

- Individualisation
- Purpose expression of feelings
- Controlled emotional involvement
- Acceptance
- Non-judgemental attitude
- Client self-determination
- Confidentiality

(Biestek, 1961)

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What's Special? (1977)

“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)

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What's Special? (1982)

“Social workers are involved in **assessment**, in **arranging practical help**, in acting as intermediary with relatives and other services and in counselling” ...

“While the provision of **practical services** and **advocacy and assessment** may be the most obvious components of the social work task ... the **care and surveillance** role also allows for **counselling and support.**”

(Page 16)

(Barclay Report, 1982)

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What's Special? (1990)

“**Social work is a relationship** between worker and client in which social workers attempt to help clients whose difficulties are so severe that they threaten their capacity to manage their own lives or to function effectively as members of society, and through the **use of that relationship** assist clients to a **better understanding of their problems** and their **own capabilities to bring about change**, if necessary **mobilising community resources** to facilitate the process of change.”

(Bamford, 1990)

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What's Special? (2003)

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

(ADSS)

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What's Special? (2004)

“The vision here is for highly-competent social-work professionals, who are able to work in a variety of settings, in **partnership with users and carers**, which will necessitate a **strong shared value-base** and have the skills to put those values into practice.

The values are those which are intrinsic to social work at its best:

- **Empowering** individuals and communities
- **Promoting independence**
- Taking an holistic and **person-centred approach**
- **Valuing difference** and diversity and determining advocacy etc”

(Gilroy, 2004)

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What's Special? (2005)

“Social Care workers **provide personal care and support** services to individuals, families and communities to meet their common human needs, give them quality of life and **enhance capabilities** to help people become as **independent as possible**.”

(Higham, The Assembly for Social Care and Social Work Education, Training and Research)

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How to do it?

Be Clear About:

- The value-base
- The evidence-base
- The competence-base
- The role and task base

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How to do it?

Through the National Infrastructure Organisations:

- GSCC
- CSCI (!)
- TOPSS/Care Sector Skills Council (!)
- SCIE

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How to do it?

Through Independent Voices for the Evidence and Competence Base:

- RIP
- CEBSS
- Making Research Count
- Assembly for Social Care and Social Work Education, Training and Research

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How to do it?

- Through a strong professional association, The British Association of Social Workers (BASW)
- And a strong occupational and service association, The Social Care Association (SCA)

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How to do it?

- Through developing and delivering agendas, alliances and actions with:
 - Politicians (the Government)
 - Other professions (eg nursing and teaching)
 - People as service users

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How to do it?

Through a personal professional
commitment

AMESBURY BRADFORD ON AVON CALNE CHIPPENHAM CORSHAM DEVIZES DOWNTON MALMESBURY
MARLBOROUGH MELKSHAM MERE PEWSEY SALISBURY TIDWORTH TISBURY TROWBRIDGE WARMINSTER
WESTBURY WILTON WOOTTON BASSETT **WILTSHIRE'S COMMUNITY AREAS**

