

Research challenges in evaluating the new social work degree

evaluation of the new
social work
degree qualification
in england

Research team:

Endellion Sharpe – Sharpe Research



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What new degree?

✦ Replacing DipSW

- ✦ Replaced CQSW/CSS/Letter of Comparability to the Certificate of Qualification in Social Work

- Replaced diverse qualifications

✦ New Labour aims

✦ Improving professional status

✦ Standards

Contested nature of social work

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- ✦ Care or control?
 - ✦ Professionalisation versus empowerment?
 - ✦ Navigator or gatekeeper?

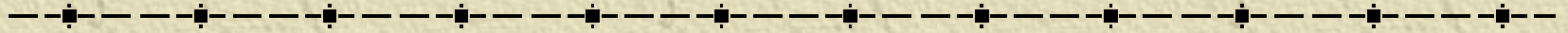
Is this a workforce issue?

- ✦ Focus on social work or social care?
- ✦ Impact on recruitment?
- ✦ Link to further career development?

Is this an educational issue?

- ✦ Education or training?
- ✦ Link between academic study and practice competence
- ✦ Change from diploma to degree

Is this an evaluation issue?



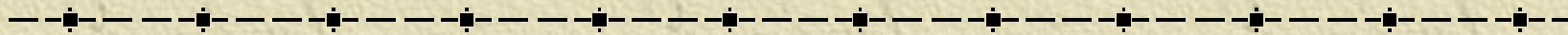
- ✦ Multiple programmes
- ✦ No baseline
- ✦ Political element

Multiple stakeholders

- ✦ Central government
- ✦ Social care employers
- ✦ Research community
- ✦ Academic educators
- ✦ Students
- ✦ Service users and carers
- ✦ Practitioners

What is happening?

New Degrees:



- ✦ Multi-method
- ✦ Research Governance
- ✦ Collecting baseline information
- ✦ Debate (Reference / Advisory Groups)
- ✦ Survey – problems / solutions
- ✦ Focus groups
- ✦ Case studies/vignettes

What will evaluation tell us?

- ✦ Implementation Process
- ✦ Student characteristics
- ✦ What is training's outcome
- ✦ Policy development
- ✦ Programme improvement
- ✦ Impact of standardisation
- ✦ Outcomes for service users and carers

Why is it important?

- ✦ Public investment / personal commitments?
- ✦ Evidence for outcomes?
- ✦ The industry and others.
- ✦ Vulnerable people

Further details

✦ Newsletter

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