

Assembly - Second 'Forum'



The Second 'Forum of Assembly for Social Care and Social Work Education, Training and Research took place at the University of Southampton on 14th September.

The Forum was attended by representatives of all but three of the constituent agencies of the Assembly - APSW; ATSW, BASW, JUC/SWEC; NATOPSS Learning to Care; SSRG; SWRA and the UK Standing Conference (please see the SSRG website for the full list of constituent members). Pat Higham Chaired the day following the welcome from Lena Dominelli.

The morning session covered issues relating to "what's special about social work and social care?" Hilary Thompsett provided the keynote speech "

"The Changing face of Social Care and Social Work - Evolution or Fragmentation?"

The afternoon session considered: 'now that we have identified what's

special about social work and social care - what can the Assembly and its constituent members do?" Don Brand from SCIE provided the keynote speech, and discussed issues emerging from the review of social work and social care that has been taking place in Scotland.

Information about the proceedings will be posted to the SSRG website in due course.

Pictured above left: (left to right) Pat Higham, Lena Dominelli, Hilary Thompsett and Tony Novak

Below: (Left to right) John Wallace, Jackie Powell and Martin Stevens



Assembly - Second 'Forum' cont.

By co-incidence, an article entitled 'Soul searching' appeared in the Society Pages of 'The Guardian' on the same day. Edited by Alison Benjamin, it suggests that social work is undergoing major change and the role of its professionals is under review. In the article, 'experts' give their verdicts on what should be considered. A response to the article was prepared by Pat Higham and Lena Dominelli on behalf of the Assembly. Both can be found on the SSRG website.

A week later, the Guardian published an article by Jennifer Rankin, researcher with the health and social care team at the Institute for Public Policy Research. Jennifer argued that the NHS could learn a lot from social care:



"Social care has much to teach the NHS about choice - the most controversial aspect of public service reform. The sector offers a model different from the choose-and-book agenda being unrolled in the NHS. Tellingly, the way choice in social care has evolved is

very different" The full story can be found at: <http://society.guardian.co.uk/secondopinion/story/0,16480,1574285,00.html>

Pictured above: Colin Kelsey and Vic Citarella

Snippet

CPA - the Audit Commission has published guidance for single tier and county councils in completing self-assessments for direction of travel assessments.

The scored direction of travel judgement is an element of the framework for comprehensive performance assessment (CPA) for single tier and

county councils from 2005. www.audit-commission.gov.uk/cpa/downloads/DirectionOfTravel.pdf