

# CommunityCare live21

BDC, London | 12-13 October

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## **How practitioners are shaping their regulator: Social Work England's story so far**

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of Strategy, Policy and Engagement**

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# Welcome

## 1. Our regulatory approach

- Regulation, renewals, continuing professional development, fitness to practise

## 2. Education and training

- Quality assurance, standards and frameworks

## 3. The social work profession

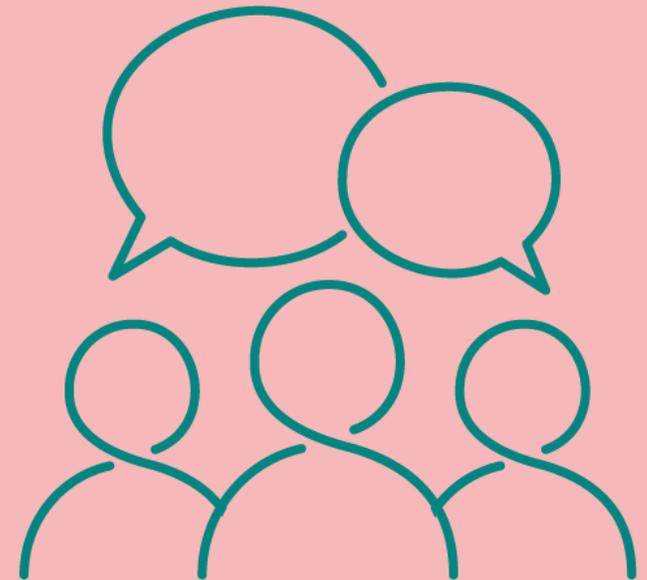
- Consultation, research and insight

## 4. People we work with and for

- Engagement and co-production

## 5. Our organisation

- Meet us on stand 4, follow us, work for us.



# Why are social workers regulated?



- Social Work England is a specialist regulator for the social work profession.
- Regulation gives the public reassurance that social workers meet and maintain professional standards.
- A reminder: we are not a membership organisation.
- The fundamental purpose of everything we do is public protection.
- Continuing professional development (CPD) and annual registration renewal (1 Sept-30 Nov) demonstrates that you are maintaining those standards.

# Annual registration renewal

Three simple steps to apply for registration by 30 November 2021:

**1**

Online application

**2**

Upload at least one piece of continuing professional development (CPD)

**3**

Fees payment.



## Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

- 83% (8 in 10) social workers see the value in CPD and 70% understand that the reason for the requirement to record CPD is to demonstrate to the public they are fit to practise.
- Over 32% of social workers have uploaded CPD so far.
- Uploaded an average of 2.8 pieces.
- We recommend you do CPD regularly and record 4 times a year as good practice.



# New CPD requirements for next year (from 1 Dec 2021):

- Increasing the minimum CPD requirement from 1 to 2 pieces.
- Introducing a requirement for peer reflection.
- Replacing the two online forms with one online form.

## Plus from 1 December 2022:

- Setting a theme for one piece of CPD

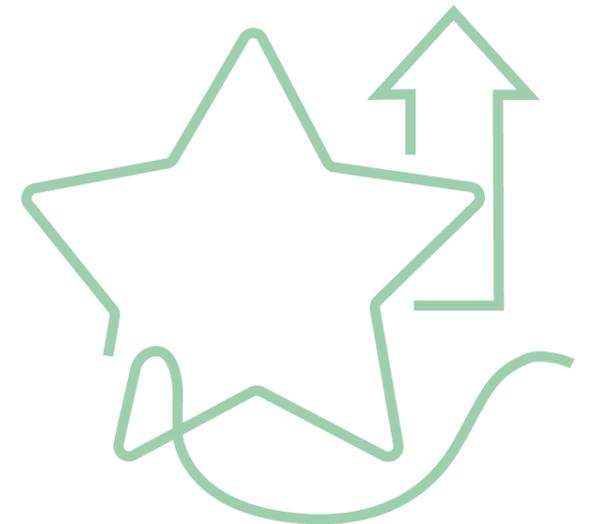


# Fitness to practise update

- Make sure that concerns raised with us are appropriate for regulatory investigation.
- Work with employers to establish how we can get the information we need to resolve investigations faster.
- Understand the factors that may result in disproportional representation from certain sections of society.
- Focus group in Greater Manchester to discuss the fitness to practise process and how we can work together when concerns are raised.
- Research project focussing on public perceptions and experiences of raising fitness to practise concerns.

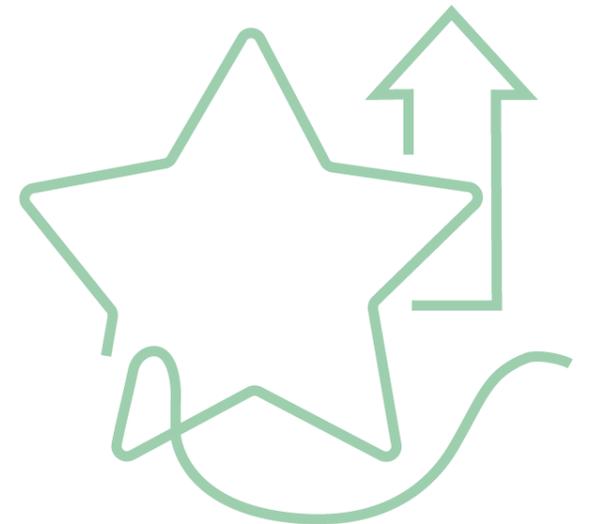
# Education and training update

- We regulate over 80 education providers delivering around 300 social work courses in England. All undergraduate, postgraduate, apprenticeships and fast-track courses.
- Programme of inspections now underway – all courses will be assessed for reapproval over a 3-year period.
- Assessing against recently launched 2021 education and training standards.
- New standards include more involvement of people with lived experience in the design and delivery of courses, strengthened admissions requirements, more emphasis on student support and 200 days on practice placements.



# Education and training activity

- Education providers have recently received their mandatory annual monitoring forms. This essential part of our quality assurance process helps us gather essential information about how the 2021 education and training standards are being met.
- Delivering a series of webinars or anyone who would like to know more about our reapproval process and any course providers who are involved in an inspection.
- Professional learning outcomes consultation early next year, more info soon. Will be in touch with all stakeholders.
- Recruiting for education quality assurance partners (inspectors): details on our website soon.



# The social work profession

- We're in a unique position to offer insight and inform quality conversations about social work.
- We are committed to sharing what we learn with the public, the profession and our stakeholders.
- We have already published 12 pieces of research and consultation, plus:
  - 3 annual reports
  - A corporate strategy
  - Business plans
  - Social Work in England: First Reflections - the first of 2 interim reports on social work leading to a landmark report in 2023.
  - Our statement of intent on equality, diversity and inclusion.
  - 55 videos and 61 news stories on our website (12 months 2020-2021)



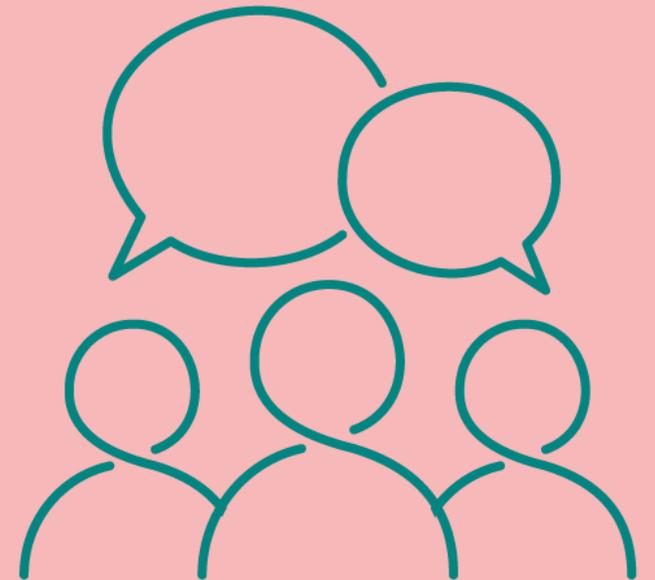


**Some of the  
priorities we will  
be working with  
you on:**

- Equality, diversity and inclusion (more on next slide)
  - Professional learning outcomes and frameworks
  - Changes to regulation of mental health roles (AMHP and BIAs)
  - Social Work Week 2022
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# Equality, diversity and inclusion

- The principles of equality, diversity and inclusion continue to remain core business for both our work as a regulator and employer.
- We are actively working towards the objectives set out in our recent three-year statement of intent. Some of this won't always be visible.
- Appointed head of equality, diversity and inclusion Ahmina Akhtar (who spoke here yesterday), who is developing equality, diversity and inclusion strategy.
- Joined forces with PSW Network and What Works for Children's Social Care to launch an anti-racism survey. Roundtable with several organisations to discuss next steps next week.
- We are asking social workers to voluntarily update their personal equality, diversity and inclusion information on their online account to help us understand trends or differences in outcomes for people with protected characteristics.





# People we work with and for

- Engagement and co-production remain at the heart of everything we do. We have continued our extensive dialogue and collaboration with the sector.
- We set up the National Advisory Forum. 15 members. Co-produced over 50 distinct pieces of work with us to date.
- Our first Social Work Week in March was our biggest conversation with the sector to date. 73 virtual events which over 10.5k people logged into.
- Regional engagement leads engaged with over 36,000 people with an interest in social work in 2020/21.
- CPD and fitness to practise are the most popular topics to talk to us about.
- Other popular themes have been the impact of Covid-19, wellbeing of social workers, increasingly complex cases, student placements, disparity of outcomes for social workers and students, gender and social media.

# Our organisation

## Talk to us



We're on stand 4

## Subscribe



Sign up for the Social Work Now newsletter on our website.

## Follow us



Follow us on Twitter, LinkedIn and YouTube.

## Join us



Forthcoming opportunities to join us. Virtual drop-in sessions are planned to ask about the roles and what it's like to work at Social Work England. Please see our website for more information.

Thank you for listening.





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