

Dispatches from the frontline



Newsletter of the Social Work Action Network, No.1 Spring 2010

Building a Social Work of Resistance: Cuts, Crisis and Contradictions

Barrie Levine discusses **Social Work Action Network (SWAN)** involvement in a campaign against cuts in Glasgow, and explains how this is shaping the focus of SWAN's annual conference in September.

Along with the rest of local government across the country, Glasgow is facing massive cuts over the next few months. Shamefully, the City Council have decided to shut 12 community centres along with a swimming pool and a library; cuts will be made in home care services and support to disabled people; welfare rights jobs will be lost and community workers cut by 50%; grants to voluntary and community organisations will also be slashed; it is estimated that over 600 jobs in the city will be lost. These cuts in vital services will rip the heart out of already struggling communities and there is more to come over the next few years.

In response, Glasgow City Unison branch has launched the Defend Glasgow's Services Campaign. The initial public meeting on 23rd January saw over 100 trade unionists and community campaigners come together to kick start the campaign.

Out of this meeting, a steering group was set up with Unison members, other trade unionists and community activists to develop the campaign's work. The local SWAN

network is formally represented on the steering group and to tie in with the campaign recently held a successful open meeting under the title 'Changing lives or rationing services? Cuts, personalisation and social work'.

The campaign to **Defend Glasgow's Services** is growing, with a petition and publicity produced, further public meetings being called and a rally in Glasgow on *Saturday 10th April*. SWAN members need to be involved in this and similar campaigns across the country to defend public services and use our networks to help build the resistance to the cuts.

Not just another conference!

SWAN's fifth annual conference will take place against this background of savage cuts in health and welfare provision, whichever party wins the General Election.

Those in need of social work support are likely to be faced with ever tighter eligibility criteria, 'Easy-jet' style personalisation schemes and huge cuts in statutory and voluntary sector organisations.

Meanwhile those delivering services will be under even greater pressure to ration services and police poor families.

In this context, the 2010 SWAN conference will provide a valuable opportunity for social workers, students, academics and service users to discuss and debate where social work is going, whether the Task Force recommendations offer a way forward and above all, how we can build the kind of alliances we need to protect services and defend good practice. Put the dates in your diary now!

The conference **Building a Social Work of Resistance: Cuts, Crisis and Contradictions** will be held on *Friday 3rd & Saturday 4th September 2010* at Glasgow Caledonian University. The full booking form will be available shortly on the SWAN website. Registration costs will be kept to a minimum to maximise attendance. Advance booking enquiries:

swanscotland@yahoo.co.uk

Call for conference papers also now invited (200 words). Please send proposals to:

r.woodward@stir.ac.uk





WHAT IS THE SOCIAL WORK ACTION NETWORK?

SWAN IS A NETWORK

OF SOCIAL WORK

PRACTITIONERS,

ACADEMICS, STUDENTS

AND SERVICE USERS

UNITED IN THEIR

CONCERN THAT SOCIAL

WORK ACTIVITY IS

BEING UNDERMINED BY

MANAGERIALISM AND

MARKETISATION, BY

THE STIGMATISATION

OF SERVICE USERS AND

BY WELFARE CUTS AND

RESTRICTIONS.

WE BELIEVE THAT SOCIAL

WORK IS A WORTHWHILE

ACTIVITY THAT CAN

HELP PEOPLE ADDRESS

THE PROBLEMS AND

DIFFICULTIES IN THEIR

LIVES. MANY OF THESE

DIFFICULTIES ARE ROOTED

IN THE INEQUALITIES AND

OPPRESSIONS OF THE

CONTEMPORARY WORLD

AND GOOD SOCIAL WORK

NECESSARILY INVOLVES

CONFRONTING THE

STRUCTURAL AND PUBLIC

CAUSES OF PRIVATE ILLS.

Dispatches from the frontline

CONTENTS

- 1 Glasgow Campaign Against Cuts
- 3 Analysis: The Social Work Taskforce Report
- 4 The Return of Radical Social Work
- 6 In Defence of Youth Work
- 7 Social Work and Climate Change
- 7 Regional Round Up:
 - West Midlands
 - 9 Glasgow
 - South Yorkshire
 - 10 Swansea
- 11 Events Diary
- Regional Contacts
- Membership

Social Work Action Network, PO Box 29521, Glasgow G63 0WS.

Dispatches From The Frontline welcomes your comments, articles and contributions. Please email copy in a word document to swan.dispatches@googlemail.com

Edited by *Rich Moth* and *Elaine McKenna*.

www.socialworkfuture.org

Analysis

The Social Work Taskforce Final Report: is the end in sight?

The Social Work Taskforce recently published its Final Report. What will this mean for practitioners and service users at the front line? Mark Baldwin presents an overview of its main recommendations, and argues that it fails to address major issues such as funding, social work values and service user involvement.

The Taskforce Report, published on December 1st 2009 comes at a time when social work is again under pressure from the media and politicians wanting to make even more changes to the profession at organisational, practice and educational levels.

It is a report that appears to offer solutions at a make or break moment for social work. We desperately need a boost to social work in the wake of unfair vilification, so what does the Report propose and will these recommendations deliver?

The Taskforce Report makes a number of key proposals including a reformed system of initial education and training, a single, nationally recognised career structure, a system for forecasting levels of demand for social workers, a licence to practise system and a programme of action on public understanding of social work in which a new proposed national College of Social Work would play a leading role.

While the Report does contain some positives, as a radical

campaigning network of social workers, service users, students and academics, SWAN must express disappointment at the Report's lukewarm and non-developmental nature.

Where it should be campaigning on behalf of the profession it is apologetic, where it should be reflecting the views of frontline workers who have been denied the opportunity to practice and develop their knowledge and skills it has kowtowed to the managerialist status quo, and where it had an opportunity to engage with service users in a powerful alliance to determine the future for social work for all our benefit, it has chosen instead to reflect the interests of management, ministers and the markets.

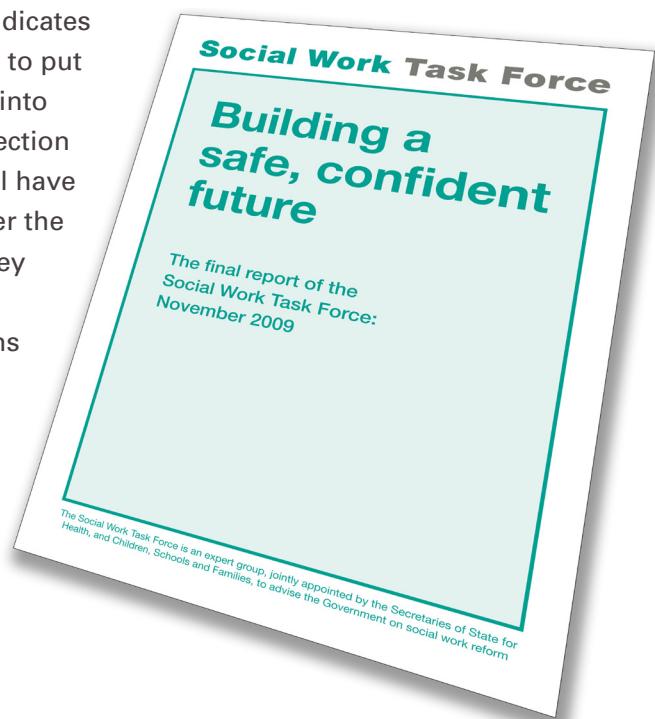
The following is a summary of our main concerns about the Report (these are discussed in greater detail in an unedited version of this article on the SWAN [website](#)):

- Funding - the Implementation Report (March 2010) indicates there will be resources to put the recommendations into practice but with an election and a recession we will have to wait and see whether the resources go where they are intended. Many of these recommendations have been made in previous inquiries/reports but local authorities, the principal employers of social workers, have not proved willing to invest in the profession.

- Social Work Education – it is recommended that employers have greater control of the Social Work degree. We believe it is crucial social workers are able to reflect on the effectiveness of their practice with some of the most marginalised people in society, and understand user need in its broader social, political and economic context.

Our concern is that increased employer direction of education would mark a shift towards an apprenticeship model of education, in which such critical and reflective approaches might be marginalised.

- Service User involvement – one of the most positive developments in social work in recent years has been the inclusion of service users in running degree programmes and service development. However, while there is some mention of user involvement in the Task Force Implementation Report, and some user representation on the Reform Board created to develop and implement the Task



Force's proposals there will remain concerns that this may be tokenistic.

● Social Work Values - there is little in the way of values to inform the recommendations. Where is the commitment to challenging inequality and arguing for greater support for the most disadvantaged? Where is the acknowledgement of social work in its political context?

● Post-graduate year in assessed practice – this might seem like a useful development to bridge University/placement learning into the first post-qualifying workplace.

However, there is a potential problem of representation and regulation. Will employers be accredited? What level of support and continuing professional development will they be required to make available to newly qualified social workers?

Who will assess them? If it is line managers, what opportunity will there be for a critical and reflective approach to professional development?

● Career structure - will the proposed new structure (including new senior roles to enable experienced social workers to remain in frontline practice) lead to local authorities de-professionalising even more jobs?

Will social workers at the top of the ladder be priced out of the job market, as teachers sometimes are?

● Supervision – a greater emphasis in the Report on supervision is to be welcomed but what model is proposed? Will it include professional learning and development, or involve more scrutiny around meeting targets

and resource control?

● College of Social Work - how will the College be organised? Will it be a democratic organisation run by and for social workers or by an elite?

Will it have teeth in negotiations with employers on terms and conditions of employment? What about the unions? What opportunity is there for collective action in defence of our profession?

The Taskforce Report is flawed in the ways that have been outlined above, but it is an opportunity to discuss the future of social work at a critical time. SWAN believes in social work as a profession that can make a difference in the lives of marginalised and oppressed service users.

We are a powerful voice within the profession that needs to be heard. The many social workers and service users who are involved with SWAN, want much more from the review of social work than is evident in the Taskforce Report.

It addresses some concerns but misses many others. We now have an opportunity to lobby the Reform Board, pressure a new government after the next election, and continue to build a powerful alliance of social workers, students, service users and academics to defend the future of the profession that sticks up for oppressed people in our society.

A longer version of this article is available [here](#). We welcome contributions to this discussion. Post your views at the forum on the SWAN **website** or email them to swan.dispatches@googlemail.com.

The Return of Radical Social Work

Dan Morton, social work student, reports on two recent events, SWAN's Radical Social Work conference in Liverpool, and the Neo-liberalism versus Social Justice student social work conference in London.

What a revelation for a discouraged student in 2010; the heart of what I thought social work was about uncovered, and still pumping at the **SWAN Radical Social Work conference!**

Only now have I realised how comfortable I had become with being a social worker; secure in the frameworks and processes of modern practice, rather than better understanding the dismal realities of the situations and society within which social work takes place. **Dr Terry Murphy** of Teesside University, one of the contributors, remarked that social work is a brave profession. I left the conference in awe of this legacy.

I had sketchy awareness of radical social work prior to this conference. I had read *Bailey and Brake*, and *Iain Ferguson's Reclaiming Social Work*, but this conference helped me flesh out this style of thinking and practising.

As an undergraduate organising a conference at my own university to spark debate and campaigns across the student body, this was a step into a spirit I knew must have existed at the start of my course, though somehow had forgotten to seek.

There is not space to pick out all I was inspired by on the day, but I found it hard to stop grinning

at the Case Con handout and the bloody-minded belief behind it!

At short notice I was asked to make a contribution about our student conference. I felt something of a charlatan in daring to address peers, academics and practitioners on how radical social work could be relevant to students today. But it was pleasing to think that by trying to initiate a collective debate and support network, students at our university were taking a small step towards a more radical practice.

Terry Murphy spoke about teaching a radical skill set, sorely needed on social work programmes. Vitally the practical steps he suggested are skills we can all implement.

Now is the time to make alliances with service user movements, to learn to act collectively in representing ourselves, and to expose and challenge any inadequacies in our curriculum and resources. By the end of the session we had collected enough email addresses to start a student group within SWAN.

Jeremy Weinstein put it well when he said that radical social work (and social work at large) should be awkward and a pain in the neck. That's the spirit. We sorely need it.

Student conference puts 'passion and action' on social work agenda

As well as attending SWAN's Radical Social Work event, I was involved in conceiving and organising a student social work conference, **Neo-liberalism versus Social Justice**, at my



Students at the Neo-liberalism versus Social Justice conference

university in February 2010. This free conference 'by students, for students' aimed to create a space to think beyond the curriculum and into a socially just future social work.

There was an emphasis on gathering student experiences and developing these into plans for a student campaigning organisation.

Around 120 student delegates attended from universities across London and further afield including Stirling, Edinburgh and Bath. We think this was the first student-led conference in recent years.

It was an independent event as we wanted an open platform to establish a student voice. Representative and campaigning organisations were invited to contribute and canvass for membership, however, so alongside Unison and BASW, there was a busy SWAN stall.

Amongst those involved were leading SWAN members such as *June Sadd, Gurnam Singh, and Peter Beresford* who made thoughtful and ardent appeals for students to keep their values and critical thinking at the heart of

their practice.

I think we succeeded in keeping a focus on passion and action during the day. The mixture of speakers, from service user, practitioner, academic and student backgrounds helped provide a sense of good will and collective mission.

To take the event forward we have prepared a report of the discussion from workshops and developed these into recommendations for a student campaigning group.

These include building and maintaining alliances with other organisations and communities, campaigning on behalf of disadvantaged groups and arguing for more focus on the political context of social work in University curricula.

I also promoted the idea of linking up with the student arm of SWAN.

Our conference and its report, together with the student session at the Radical Social Work event, established a platform to launch a campaigning student group.

For more information on getting involved with student SWAN email danmorton80@hotmail.com.

In Defence of Youth Work

Tony Taylor explains why practitioners have set up a campaign to put young person-centred practice back at the heart of youth work.

Back in March 2009 we launched with some anxiety a campaign to oppose the transformation of youth work into little more than an agency of behavioural modification. In fact our desire to resist the increasing imposition of prescribed and predictable outcomes upon our practice struck a chord.

So much so that on February 11 our first national conference held in Manchester brought together almost 150 students, workers, academics and supporters to explore such issues as the drive towards *Integrated Youth Support Services*; our increasing incorporation into surveillance and policing; and the insidious undermining of our allegiance to a voluntary relationship with young people.

Of course, given the diverse character of Youth Work, we did not always see eye to eye. Nevertheless we did engender a collective and creative commitment to youth work as 'an association and critical conversation without guarantees'.

Over the next six months we will be focusing on a pre-election strategy of challenging parliamentary candidates to explain how they see young people and youth work; on the reclaiming of *National Youth Work Week* as a vehicle for a young person-centred practice;

and on the necessity of telling our own contradictory tales of our encounters with young people as a qualitative rejoinder to the State's quantitative obsessions.

During this period we also hope to deepen our relationship with the *Social Work Action Network* at local, regional and national levels.

For more information, see our website [here](#).

Social Work and Climate Change: A Call to Action

Rich Moth and Dan Morton suggest ways that social workers can get involved with the movement to stop climate change.

Today climate change is perhaps the biggest challenge that humanity faces with hundreds of millions of people at risk of hunger, water shortages and flooding as the world warms. Meanwhile the UK will experience more extreme weather such as the unprecedented rainfall and flooding in Cumbria last year.

Social work service users

are likely to be amongst those disproportionately affected by climate change. In France the heat wave of 2003 caused 20,000 deaths. Older people who were socially isolated were more at risk, particularly those living alone and without access to support from carers. Health conditions and poverty also increase vulnerability.

However, while governments and multinational businesses promote individual behaviour change and market solutions to global warming, there is an alternative that would be more in keeping with radical social work values. This approach would enhance social justice through a comprehensive programme of government works alongside regulation to cut emissions.

This is what the **Campaign Against Climate Change** (CaCC) and trade union movement's **One Million Climate Jobs Now!** campaign is calling on the government to do.

It proposes the installation of thousands of on and off shore



Demonstration in support of Vestas wind turbine factory occupation in 2009

wind turbines and solar panels on buildings; significant investment to run more trains and buses and make them free; and a programme to insulate all homes in the UK.

Such policies could create a million jobs, reduce poverty and inequality and at the same time tackle climate change. But it will require a mass campaign to force the government to act. Social workers can play a crucial role in this movement.

What social workers can do:

- Join the **Campaign Against Climate Change** (CaCC)
- Get your UNISON branch or other networks to support the **One Million Climate Jobs Now!** campaign.
- Become a UNISON green shop steward in your workplace.
- Twin your social services department with similar institutions in a country such as Bangladesh or Northern Ghana that is affected by climate change.

This is an edited version of an article on the SWAN website [here](#). More information on CaCC Trade Union group is available [here](#).

There will be a session on climate change at SWAN's next annual conference in September 2010.

Regional Round Up West Midlands

We didn't come into social work for this!

Nick Burke reports from a West Midlands SWAN conference in January that debated how to

resist attacks on public services and fight for a social work rooted in social justice.

A major theme of our conference was resisting managerialism, an ideology that claims that the same set of management techniques can be applied to any 'business', whether it's distributing frozen food or providing services for homeless people.

Showing a total contempt and disregard for the skills that workers in the social care sector have, managers use performance management systems to drive down working conditions whilst at the same time promising to measure the un-measurable and 'scientifically' show that the very services they are cutting are actually improving.

Speaking at the conference *Roger Kline* of the ASPECT union and author of **What If?** pointed out that the *Centre for Excellence and Outcomes in Children and Young People's Services* trains senior managers to "translate 'soft outcomes,' such as happiness, healthiness or well-being, into a solid performance measurement".

Continuous recording of these 'outcomes' dramatically changes how we work. For example, while computers could be a tool to improve practice, stress about cumbersome systems and targets means that instead they contribute to an already high level of work related sickness and burn out amongst workers.

Social workers talked about the battle to stay mentally well and the failure of their employers to make any consideration or allowances for workers' needs.

UNISON steward *Maureen Wade* talked about the importance of organising in the workplace so that a collective response can be made to attacks on services.

Mental health social work: 'Computer says no'

Mental health workers discussed the requirement to use the *Health of the Nation Outcome Scales (HONOS)*, a means of recording progress towards the target 'to improve significantly the health and social functioning of mentally ill people'. They subjectively score 12 items measuring behaviour, impairment, symptoms and social functioning, feed these into a computer and then the computer generates a 'care pathway' for that person, which outlines the support they will receive.

Social workers talked about how they find themselves left with no time to visit service users and their approaches such as crisis intervention and systems theory are not valued leading to a reductionism in practice.

Dr Mike Smith, a mental health professional with over 26 years experience and co-author of **The THRIVE Approach to Mental Wellness**, said that depression and hearing voices are part of the human condition.

Social workers try to understand the social context of these human characteristics, the circumstances that can really "drive people mad", however this expertise is devalued or missed when the focus is on medical models.

Delegates pointed out that the tasks overwhelming us are usually not those that drove us to become social workers. It is the

administrative work, the resource allocation, and the guarding and rationing of services that is seen as the priority.

Personalisation: 'They'll buy you a bike'

The conference was critical of the government's personalisation agenda, which means service users receive individual budgets to purchase their own care. This can be used as an excuse to get rid of existing council provision such as day care.

One example given was that it is easy for a services user to get something simple like a bike, but as soon as more complex demands are raised it becomes impossible to pay for the care needed just using one individual budget. It was noted that once collective services have been cut it would not be easy to get them back.

Social Work Practices

Simon Cardy, a children's social worker led a briefing on Independent Social Work

Practices. Two of the six pilots are in the West Midlands.

Whilst these practices promise a reduction in bureaucracy they are tied into performance contracts and performance-related pay. A statement was unanimously agreed opposing social work practices.

Support, debate and action

'I'm fed up of being a nodding dog, I came into social work to be radical' said one long standing social worker, whilst a student out on placement remarked *'I'm glad to have found a group of people who want to challenge what's happening, to know there's somewhere we can go and that we'll be backed up.'*

Another social worker who attended, Clare Hill commented *'my experience at the conference has prompted me to write to encourage others to raise awareness of SWAN as not only a 'defender' of the social work profession, but also as a source of immense support, encouragement and optimism in an increasingly*

challenging climate.

The diversity of delegates undoubtedly enhanced the lively and informative discussions and despite holding preconceived notions that the day might stir up feelings of increased frustration, I actually came away feeling more positive, having learnt a great deal and with a renewed commitment towards my work and the values which underpin it.'

For more info on the West Midlands group email: swanwestmidlands@gmail.com

UNISON Social Work Taskforce Conference in Birmingham

Jolyon Jones recommends a free UNISON event with speakers from the Social Work Taskforce.

West Midlands UNISON has called a free Conference for Social Workers and Social Work students to be held on *Tuesday 18th May* in Birmingham City Centre. Lunch will be provided.

The keynote speakers are two members of the Social Work Taskforce, **Professor Sue White** of

Crikey! According to Unison morale amongst social workers is at rock bottom.



Well, how about that!
Up from last year!



Lancaster University and *Helga Pile*, UNISON National Officer.

The Conference will fall after the General election and there will be an opportunity to discuss what the political changes will mean for social work and the implementation of the Taskforce recommendations. There will be workshops and opportunities to network.

We are hoping employed social workers will be able to persuade managers to release them to attend this as a training event and social work students will find it a useful learning opportunity.

This is an event for frontline workers and not an expensive commercially organised conference, which is why we need your help in the following ways:

- Let friends and colleagues know about the event and encourage them to attend.
- Let your Learning and Development section or lecturers know about the event.
- SWAN lecturers/practice teachers please release students to attend.

To book a place contact *Sarah Woodward* at UNISON, 24 Livery Street, Birmingham B3 2PA or e-mail s.woodward@unison.co.uk

Glasgow

SWAN members protest against treatment of asylum seekers following deaths of family.

The Serykh family, who had claimed asylum in the UK, fell to their deaths from the tower



SWAN banner at the Glasgow protest to support refugees

block in which they lived on Sunday 7th March.

Their asylum application to remain in the UK had recently been refused and they had been told to leave their flat. SWAN members joined residents, community and faith groups and trade unions in marching from the spot where the family died in Springburn, Glasgow to a rally in George Square on March 13th 2010.

The march, organised by Red Road Residents, the *Glasgow Campaign to Welcome Refugees, Positive Action in Housing* and the *Unity Centre*, had two main aims.

The first was to remember the Serykh family and call for an immediate end to any further enforced removals of refugee families by the UK Borders Agency.

The second was for the immediate return of Stephanie Ovranah and her twin six year old sons, Joshua and Joel, to their friends, neighbours and local church in Glasgow's Cranhill where they have lived

for the past five years.

The family were detained at Brand Street Reporting Centre without warning last Friday with the children still in their school uniforms. They are currently held in Yarl's Wood Detention Centre.

For more information and to support these campaigns contact elaine.mckenna3@ntlworld.com.

South Yorkshire

SWAN, Social Work & Trade Unions

Bea Kay argues that it will be important for social workers in SWAN to strengthen trade union links with public sector cuts looming.

Discussing the ideologies behind social work practice is something most practitioners get little opportunity to do at work. However, having been inspired by the opportunity to do so at national SWAN conferences, a small number of practitioners,

students and academics have started to hold SWAN meetings in Sheffield. Our eventual aim is to link up with Rotherham, Barnsley and Doncaster to form a South Yorkshire group.

The meetings held so far have discussed taking motions in support of SWAN, including financial backing, to local trade union branches. We have members in Unison (Local Government and NHS branches), GMB & Unite (which have a number of Local Government Social Care staff in them), NAPO (National Association of Probation Officers), NUS (National Union of Students), and UCU (University and Colleges Union).

We are using the model motion on the SWAN website with a few changes to reflect local issues.

Unison has already agreed support at a national level but it was felt to be important to discuss this with individual branches to get them more involved at the local level in supporting practitioners, students and academics.

We believe the role of the unions is crucial given the attacks that are looming in the public sector where no area of social work is likely to go unscathed.

We will all be blamed for the crisis rather than the target setting, caseloads, staff shortages, bureaucracy and IT pressures that are currently dominating all areas of our practice.

The group is trying to make sure that the discussion to counter attacks on social work is as broad as possible and is linking up people in all fields, including service users, probation, mental

health, children's, disability and adult services.

This means attracting people from local government, the NHS, probation and the voluntary sector. Students are vital to this as they are engaged in a huge discussion about ideas at the start of their careers.

We are hoping to call a big local meeting in Sheffield in mid April, with local and national speakers to discuss these ideas. Meanwhile we are having regular planning meetings to get things off the ground.

For more information about the group contact

bea.kay@hotmail.co.uk

SWAN group. Swansea City and County have just launched a personalisation programme.

The first task for Swansea SWAN is to try and make sure that this does not become a Trojan horse for cuts and to ensure that it really does promote the needs and views of service users.

Swansea SWAN are now organising a one-day conference in April to look at issues around Personalisation.

Martin Chapman,
01792 841435
mchapman@ntlworld.com

Swansea

Social Work Action Network Launched in Swansea.

Martin Chapman outlines the concerns of social workers in Swansea that personalisation will be a Trojan horse for cuts.

Over the last few years social workers and social work students have been attending the SWAN conferences across the UK.

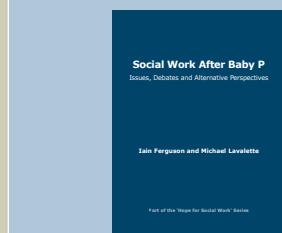
Whilst there had always been an intention to get something going locally it never quite happened. However as cuts loom across the council and with social workers continuing to feel dragged away from social work practice the situation has changed.

Social workers from the Hospital Team, the Community Mental Health Teams and the Child and Family Teams recently met in Swansea University with staff from the Social Work Department to launch a local

Social Work After baby P.

Written by leading SWAN members. You can order your copy [here](#).

Social Work After baby P Part of the new Hope for Social Work Series



This important booklet aims to address a range of issues thrown up by the 'Baby P' affair in Britain. It addresses: child poverty and inequality; the failings of IT systems in the sphere of social work; changes to the social care task and its implications for front line workers; and the reality behind claims that Britain is a 'Broken Society'. The essays make a strong case that 'marketisation' of social care and neo-liberal economic and social policies have made the lives of social work service users and social work practitioners worse – much worse.

The booklet brings together leading social work academics from across Britain, frontline workers and trade union officials.

Written in an engaging and accessible manner it is essential reading for frontline social workers, social work students and academics, and all those who believe that social work – as an activity which can potentially bring beneficial change to the lives of the most marginal and impoverished – is an activity worth defending and fighting for.

Events Diary

Saturday 10th April 2010, 9.30am

Stop The Cuts Rally.

Assemble:

University Avenue, Glasgow.

<http://www.unison-scotland.org.uk/publicworks/stopthekuts.html>

Saturday 10th April 2010, 12noon

National Demonstration, London:

Defending the Welfare State and Public Services.

March and Rally

Assemble: Temple Place, Embankment, London.

www.10410demo.co.uk

Tuesday 20th April 2010, 3.30pm

Bristol Regional Group meeting.

Conference Room, The Speedwell Centre, Whitefield Road, Speedwell, Bristol, BS5 7TJ

Phill Wheatley 0117 301 2345

phill.wheatley@awp.nhs.uk

Saturday 24th April 2010,

10am-2pm

SWAN London Event on Personalisation and anti-racist practice.

Finsbury Library, 245 St John St, London EC1V 4NB.

(Nearest tube: Angel)

swanlondon@googlemail.com

Tuesday 11th May,

2pm -3.30pm

SWAN West Midlands:

Will social workers be replaced by cheap labour?

Fighting the cuts and the future of social work employment.

Room RCG33, Richard Crossman Building (Opposite Herbert Gallery), Jordan Well, Coventry University, Coventry

swanwestmidlands@gmail.com

Tuesday 18th May 2010

UNISON Social Work

Taskforce Conference.

Birmingham city centre, venue tbc, FREE entry (open to non-Union members)

Info: **Sarah Woodward** at UNISON, 24 Livery Street, Birmingham B3 2PA or e-mail s.woodward@unison.co.uk

Friday 3rd – Saturday 4th

September 2010

5th Annual SWAN

National Conference.

Building a Social Work of Resistance: Cuts, Crisis and Contradictions.

Glasgow Caledonian University

Info: swanscotland@yahoo.co.uk

Regional Contacts

Bristol: **Phill Wheatley** 0117 301 2345, phill.wheatley@awp.nhs.uk

Far South West: **Julia Hickinbotham**, juliahickinbotham@hotmail.com

London: swanlondon@googlemail.com

Scotland: swanscotland@yahoo.co.uk

South West of England: **Mark Baldwin**, University of Bath 01225 385824, hssmjb@bath.ac.uk

South Yorkshire: bea.kay@hotmail.co.uk

Swansea: **Martin Chapman**, 01792 841435, mchapman@ntlworld.com

West Midlands: swanwestmidlands@googlemail.com

Membership

The Social Work Action Network is a membership organisation. If you would like to join please download a membership form from the website [here](#). Membership costs £10 (or £5 concessionary rate) per year. Please return completed forms to: **Social Work Action Network**, PO Box 29521, Glasgow G63 0WS.