

# Working in Social Work

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# Social Work as a profession

- - We're still fairly new as a profession, although social work as a role dates back many years its only been compulsory to register since 2003, the title social worker is protected in law (Section 61, Care Standards Act, 2000).
- - We're still a small group, in 2018 there were 96,497 registered social workers in England compared with 669,854 nurses and 506,400 teachers
- - Some of this difficulty arises from the variety of forms social work can take and defining what social work is as well as what a social worker does.

# Global Definition for Social Work

- *“Social work is a practice-based profession and an academic discipline that promotes social change and development, social cohesion, and the empowerment and liberation of people. Principles of social justice, human rights, collective responsibility and respect for diversities are central to social work. Underpinned by theories of social work, social sciences, humanities and indigenous knowledge, social work engages people and structures to address life challenges and enhance wellbeing.”*

*International Federation of Social Workers, 2014*



I Am Because We Are  
STRENGTHENING SOCIAL SOLIDARITY & GLOBAL CONNECTEDNESS

16<sup>th</sup> March 2021

WORLD SOCIAL WORK DAY  
16TH MARCH 2021  
**#WSWD2021**



# Social Work England

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- Mission Statement:
- Every day, social workers support millions of people to improve their chances in life.
- Social Work England is a specialist body taking a new approach to regulating social workers in their vital roles. We believe in the power of collaboration and share a common goal with those we regulate—to protect the public, enable positive change and ultimately improve people’s lives.
- Social work is about people. Our purpose is to regulate social workers in England so that people receive the best possible support whenever they might need it in life. We are committed to raising standards through collaboration with everyone involved in social work.

The logo for Social Work England is displayed on a teal background. It features the words "Social", "Work", and "England" stacked vertically in a white, sans-serif font. To the right of the text are three white, overlapping, curved lines that resemble a stylized knot or a series of loops.

Social  
Work  
England

# Professional Capabilities Framework



The professional association for social work and social workers



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[www.basw.co.uk/pcf](http://www.basw.co.uk/pcf)

# PCF

1. PROFESSIONALISM - Identify and behave as a professional social worker, committed to professional development

2. VALUES AND ETHICS - Apply social work ethical principles and value to guide professional practices

3. DIVERSITY AND EQUALITY - Recognise diversity and apply anti-discriminatory and anti-oppressive principles in practice

4. RIGHTS, JUSTICE AND ECONOMIC WELLBEING - Advance human rights and promote social justice and economic wellbeing

5. KNOWLEDGE – Develop and apply relevant knowledge from social work practice and research, social sciences, law, other professional and relevant fields, and from the experience of people who use services

# PCF

**6. CRITICAL REFLECTION AND ANALYSIS** - Apply critical reflection and analysis to inform and provide a rationale for professional decision-making

**7. SKILLS AND INTERVENTIONS** - Use judgement, knowledge and authority to intervene with individuals, families and communities to promote independence, provide support, prevent harm and enable progress

**8. CONTEXTS AND ORGANISATIONS** - Engage with, inform and adapt to changing organisational contexts, and the social and policy environments that shape practice. Operate effectively within and contribute to the development of organisations and services, including multi-agency and inter-professional settings

**9. PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP** – Promote the profession and good social work practice. Take responsibility for the professional learning and development of others. Develop personal influence and be part of the collective leadership and impact of the profession

# Employment Context for Social Work

- Local Authority/Statutory Work
- Health
- Third Sector
- Education
- Research

<https://www.theguardian.com/social-care-network/social-life-blog/2014/sep/10/social-work-voluntary-sector-job-satisfaction>