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To: Adult Principal Social Workers

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### **Closure of the College of Social Work**

We thought it was important to write to all Adult Principal Social Workers following the announcement last week of the closure of The College of Social Work. Their decision followed a recent review which exposed serious failings with the College's finances and business model and as a result, Government has decided to stop funding the College.

Arrangements will be made to ensure a smooth closure and enable the functions and programmes which the College has been leading to be transferred to alternative organisations/s.

We recognise the significant amount of work that the College has undertaken and its achievements since it was established in 2011. Their contribution to the Care Act; the Knowledge and Skills statement; embedding the Professional Capabilities Framework and developing tools and resources to support practice improvement, have helped to refocus social work with adults and achieve a good balance with child and family social work. We will work with the College to ensure these and other resources continue to be available and play a role in the future development and growth of social work.

In particular, we are extremely grateful to the College for the support that it has given to the Adult Principal Social Worker network. We can assure you that arrangements will be made to enable both the Adults and Children and Families Principal Social Worker networks to continue to be supported and flourish.

In these challenging times, the role of social workers is crucial to making a positive difference to the lives of people in vulnerable circumstances. Principal social workers are galvanising social work activity, developing and improving practice and raising the profile and value of social work across the country.

We have come a long way since the College was created and the Department of Health remains committed to ensuring that the Chief Social Worker role and the PSWs will be supported to provide leadership for adult social work, which will be even more important as we move to more integrated responses to working with the health and social care needs of our population.

On 10 July 2015, the second annual conference for Adult and Children and Families Principal Social Workers is taking place and will be a significant event in continuing to build momentum for this crucial role. We would urge you to attend the conference to help to ensure that the voice of social work is heard loudly.

Principal social workers are the critical leadership force in social work, and as Chief Social Worker and Chair of the national network, we will work tirelessly to support you in this role and together champion social work.

Yours sincerely



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