



Department of Health

Chief Social Worker for Adults
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www.dh.gov.uk

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Dear social work student,

I am writing to welcome you and wish you well on your social work qualifying programme. Social workers have such a vital role to play in our society and I am so pleased that you want to make a contribution to improving people's lives. In terms of opportunity, range of options, employability and international recognition, social work is one of the best career choices you could have made. It will deepen your understanding of social issues and social justice, further develop your critically reflective and analytical abilities and enable you to work in complex situations.

Social work is about working with individuals, children, families and communities to achieve the best outcome for them. Social workers need vision, a clear knowledge and value base and an enhanced skill set and these are all areas you will work on during the time you spend on your course. As a profession we want social workers who can make a difference, who operate sensitively and collaboratively and who have the confidence to challenge systemic injustice and poor practice. During your time on the course you will work hard, but you will receive a great deal in return. It is up to you to make the most of it.

I am keen to promote social work with adults and hope you have a chance, through your practice placements, to experience working in one of the many adult focused settings. Social workers work with people with mental health needs, learning disabilities, physical disabilities, substance misuse, aging and end of life care, to name a few. This is an exciting time for social work with adults - the Care Act 2014 is putting people and their wellbeing at the heart of social work, with social workers supporting individuals and those who care for them, empowering and enabling people to achieve their outcomes that matter most to them.

Best wishes for your exciting time ahead!

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