



Department  
of Health &  
Social Care

The Chief Social Worker for Adults (England)  
Department of Health and Social Care  
39 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0EU  
T 020 7210 5284  
E [Chiefsocialworkerforadults@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:Chiefsocialworkerforadults@dhsc.gov.uk)

September 2019

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 contribute 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 human rights 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 skillset 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. We are seeing a real shift towards strengths and rights-based approaches to social work practice, with social workers building and maintaining trusting relationships with the people they support, resolving difficulties and enhancing opportunities for inclusive safe and happy lives. We want future social workers to really make use of the resources people already have and help them make the most of their capabilities. These are skills that I hope you will learn on your courses and apply later in your social work careers.

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 put people and their wellbeing at the heart of social work, with social workers taking a strengths-based approach to

supporting individuals and those who care for them, empowering and enabling people to achieve their outcomes that matter most to them.

I have made a short video which says a bit more about social work with adults and to wish you well in your social work studies

<https://youtu.be/EBK6vTpopQ>

Best wishes for your exciting time ahead!

Yours sincerely,

Lyn Romeo

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lyn Romeo', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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E [chiefsocialworkerforadults@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:chiefsocialworkerforadults@dhsc.gov.uk)

Blog <https://socialworkwithadults.blog.gov.uk/>

Twitter: @LynRomeo\_CSW