

Rostrum

April 2010

Number 100

The voice of social work in Scotland

Guth obair shoisealta ann an Alba



Special 100th Edition

We take a nostalgic look back
at 25 years of Rostrum

MediaWatch

Why *Precious*
is too good to miss

Honours of Scotland

Castle celebrations for World Social Work Day
and BASW Scotland Social Work Awards



BASW UK Conference

Thursday 20th May 2010

Birmingham Town Hall, Victoria Square, Birmingham

The future of practice and the reform agenda

- Attend this free BASW conference to hear the views of leading figures in UK social care on key issues currently facing social work
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Outline of BASW's UK Conference and AGM

Session one:

The Politics Show

Featuring the minister for social care, BASW Chief Executive Hilton Dawson and a contribution from a service user

Session two:

What has regulation ever done for us?

Featuring leading figures from UK regulatory bodies and the head of BASW's A&R Service

Session three:

Voices from the frontline

An open mic session featuring the experiences of frontline social workers, plus comment from a panel featuring BASW's 5 Star accredited employers

The conference will be followed by BASW's UK ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The day will end with will a 40th Birthday CHAMPAGNE RECEPTION to mark this significant milestone in the Association's history

This event is free to BASW members. Non-members: £25.00. For a full programme and to reserve your place at the conference please contact BASW's head office:

Tel: 0121 622 3911 or email: agm@basw.co.uk

Please note that BASW will cover the travel costs for two people from each branch to attend the Branch Officers Meeting

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Wanted...

Editorial Board members

Would you like to join *Rostrum's* Editorial Board? We are keen to hear from students, front line workers, basic grade and senior workers willing to help shape the voice of social work in Scotland. Contact the Editor at: rostrum@basw.co.uk

The views expressed in *Rostrum* are not necessarily those of the Editor or of BASW

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Service quality is good overall but performance varies - SWIA report

David Mitchell

SOCIAL WORK services in Scotland are generally of good quality and reliable but are not yet performing consistently enough across the country, according to a report from the Social Work Inspection Agency.

The report - which provides an overview of the findings from SWIA's four year inspection programme of social work services



Alexis Jay:
Mixed picture

- covers services for adults, children and families, criminal justice and carers.

It shows that levels of satisfaction with social work services are high and

there are many examples of good service delivery across the country. But there are also wide variations in both spending and the way in which services are delivered for both adults and children.

The report also stresses that despite the challenges faced by social work planners, staff are on the whole well motivated and show a commitment to providing services that improve the lives of people who use them.

It says: "The messages are clear. The majority of people of all ages who use services and their carers have valued them and think they have made a positive difference to their lives. Staff who provide services are committed and look for ways to improve the services they offer people."

Other key findings include:

- More needs to be done by social work and its partners to improve the care of older people. In 2009, older people were twice as likely to be living in care homes than their own homes with intensive support

- Social work services are looking after and providing care for increasing numbers of children.

- Policy initiatives to improve kinship care, residential care and foster care have had varied impact

- Social work services are doing some effective work with offenders but overall the quality varies

- Carers place a high value on the services and supports available to them but their own needs are not routinely assessed and the support available is inconsistent

- Leadership is crucial to the overall quality of social work services

- There is no clear link between levels of council spending and performance, with the best performing councils not necessarily the highest spenders.

Chief Social Work Inspector Alexis Jay said: "Whilst our findings provide a mixed picture of how social work services are performing, it is important to stress that the vast majority of recommendations we made throughout our four year programme have been addressed and the overall quality of services has improved.

"Social work services are now faced with rising demands against a background of severe constraints on resources. This makes it all the more important that resources are used in the most effective and efficient ways possible and SWIA is committed to sharing the many examples of good practice we have found in our inspections."

The report was highlighted by Children and Early Years Minister Adam Ingram during a reception to celebrate World Social Work Day 2010 and the BASW Scotland Social Work Awards at Edinburgh Castle.

Mr Ingram said that the SWIA report was evidence of the "excellent work" carried out by the social care workforce and it was appropriate to recognise and applaud this during National Social Care Week.

"I think we can all point to examples where the 'sub-zero heroes', often literally, went the extra mile to help and support those who were particularly vulnerable during the atrocious weather conditions we faced earlier this year, and indeed are still being experienced by some," he said.

Harriet L Dempster, President of the Association of Directors of Social Work, welcomed the report's findings.

"We recognise that it is very unlikely there would be a direct relationship between spend and performance as this is rarely found in any field because of other factors at play. All factors need to be taken into account, for example the impact of deprivation or the amount of family and community support to a person, before any conclusions are drawn.

"The focus on leadership is welcome as it has proven crucial in the positive development of other public services, including education and health.

"*Changing Lives* indicated that getting the best outcomes for people is not just dependent on what social work does or spends but needs to be seen alongside the actions of other public services such as the NHS. We are pleased that many Scottish local authorities are working with the NHS and the Scottish Government to look at the bigger picture."

• *Improving Social Work in Scotland*, available from: www.swia.gov.uk

BASW ballots members on College of Social Work

Ruth Stark

BASW Council decided on 24 February to seek the views of members in relation to the question of a College of Social Work across the UK.

As you will know, there has been intense debate in England following the publication of the Task Force report last November and a Reform Board has been set up under the auspices of the Social Care Institute for Excellence.

One of the recommendations of the Task Force was that a National College of Social Work be set up in England. Initially, BASW had a seat on the board. In the different political environment of England there are issues about how social services are developing. Whilst this is recognised as a local issue in England, there are implications for social services across the UK. Social work reaches beyond national boundaries and is a worldwide profession.

There is an understanding that BASW Council is keen to build on the vision of the founders of the association back in the 1970s and that many of the attributes that they would be looking for in a "college" would be found in the Memorandum, Articles and Bye Laws of the association. BASW already has particular assets in publications such as the *British Journal of Social Work* and *Practice*, and has its own publishing firm Venture Press.

BASW links internationally through membership of IFSW. The concept is to build on what has been achieved over the past 40 years in each of the four countries of the UK and to have a co-ordinating UK body to help share good policy and practice across the different jurisdictions. It will use its international links to further develop good practice.

At this point, BASW Council is seeking the views of the membership. Under the timetable for the poll, members will by now have received a ballot paper to indicate their views on whether the proposed college across the UK would be helpful to the development of social work.

Your vote should be sent back in the return envelope provided by 21 April for the poll to be considered by Council on 28 April. Council will then make a recommendation to the UK AGM about the way forward.

Meetings have taken place in Scotland to discuss this and other matters. Topics have included pursuing our joint manifesto with UNISON on *Helping People Change Their Lives*. The joint guide *Workload Management and Supervision* will shortly be joined by one on keeping safe at work.

If you would like to arrange a similar meeting in your own locality or just find out more about these issues, please contact the BASW Scotland Office, Email: scotland@basw.co.uk, Tel: 0131 221 9445

SWIA launches new e-tool

A NEW e-tool, developed to accompany the Social Work Inspection Agency's self evaluation guide, has been launched to help local authorities continuously improve their social work services.

The self-evaluation e-tool, which is available online, will enable social work practitioners to record their evaluations, identify strengths and weaknesses, and assign priorities to each of the areas for improvement.

Self-evaluation e-tool, available at: www.swia.gov.uk

Rostrum Number 4 April 1986



During the very early days of *Rostrum* the front cover was put together using Letraset transfer lettering

Barr Printers would like to congratulate Rostrum on achieving its 100th edition. It has been a pleasure to work with BASW Scotland for more than 10 years. We wish them all the very best and continued success in the future.

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Half empty or half full?

Harriet L Dempster, Director of Social Work, Highland Council and President, ADSW

EVERY DAY there are headlines, articles or opinion pieces in the press drawing our attention to the fact that we face the most difficult of financial climates. The prospect of savings, cuts and a period of retrenchment loom large. Some commentators have described the situation as unprecedented, worse than the 1980s.

We may have thought this year's budget settlement was tight but we are being warned there is worse to come. In the immediate future, there is the possibility of mid-year budget reviews post the general election. In the longer term, the forecast suggests hard times will be with us not for three years - but at least five - and possibly up to 10 years. It would be all too easy to retreat into doom and gloom.

Notwithstanding, there are real risks that the progress we have made in partnership working and early intervention in children's services is swept away by protectionism and a refocusing solely on statutory work.

Sacrificing support and voluntary services may bring about short term gains and savings but they will inevitably mean that we will not get it right for Scotland's children and that we will face increased financial pressures as we struggle in later years to pick up the pieces.

It is times like these that colleagues who have the ability to see the glass as half full are worth their weight in gold. Their optimism fuels the creativity which can so often result in a crisis being the mother of invention.

There is a growing recognition that we can't go on as we are - something has to give in the context of demographic changes and the financial envelope available. Can Scotland afford some of policies and benefits we have in place: free bus passes, free personal and nursing care, and free school meals? Are care models focused on providing support 24/7 to individuals in single tenancies throughout the community sustainable? Does the scale of what we face suggest it is time to recast the relationship between the individual, the family and the state? If there is change here, what are the implications for social work?

It may not immediately feel like we are being faced with an opportunity but trying to see the situation in these terms may help achieve the best possible outcome for our service users and the profession.

The Scottish Government is currently seeking to engage key stakeholders in a dialogue about reshaping services for older people. Much of the debate so far has been around preventing hospital admissions, delayed discharges and shifting the balance of care away from acute services to the community. There is a growing realisation that if we are going to support more people for longer in our communities a whole system change which involves changing cultures, redesigning services and



Harriet Dempster: A win-win situation

focusing on building and sustaining community capacity is required.

Working with and for communities, as well as individuals and families, was part of the social work tradition during the 1970s and early 1980s. The time may be right for its resurrection.

In the current context, an approach which enables wider and more meaningful engagement could also serve to promote better outcomes through more active citizenship. There is, I believe, a win-win situation for social work, communities and individuals if we have the vision, courage, drive and conviction to see it through.

John Murphy

JOHN MURPHY, Stirling County's first Director of Social Work and a founding member of the ADSW, has died aged 92.

Mr Murphy entered social work after a career in teaching and a spell as Her Majesty's Inspector for Approved Schools in Scotland. Following the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968, he became the Director for Stirling, later Central Region, and was twice President of the ADSW.

He was also a founding member of Bield Housing Association and after retiring in 1978 served for five years as Chairman.

Kay Carmichael tribute - Page 22

saso	glasgow branch
Annual Conference	
Is Scotland Protecting Its Children?	
Monday 10 May, University of Strathclyde	
Professor Andrew Lockyer, Tam Baillie - SCCYP, Prof. Brigid Daniel, Fiona Mitchell - SCCPN, Sandra Paton - South Ayrshire Women's Aid, Beth Smith - MARS	
Delegates £55	
Further details from 01786 459557 donna.redfern@scra.gsi.gov.uk	

Parliamentary business

Ruth Stark, BASW Scotland Manager



THE YEAR started with the Health Committee Report into Child and Adolescent Mental Health & Wellbeing.

This was the investigation that Graeme Rizza and myself gave evidence to in 2009. The debate and report are well worth reading. We are trying to monitor changes in resources and if you have information you would like to share please contact me.

On 14 January there were some interesting questions:

- Cathie Craigie asked if BSL should be given the same status as Gaelic
- Pauline McNeill asked about numbers of children and young people admitted to adult mental health wards. In Glasgow, the number has doubled from 21 to 44.

Self-harm by children and young people, and the lack of research into the sexual exploitation of children in Scotland, formed two questions raised on 28 January. It is often through questions on a Thursday afternoon that we get snippets of information to follow through in lobbying MSPs.

On 4 February, Malcolm Chisholm used a question on procurement of social care to highlight the recent "fiasco" in Edinburgh where re-tendering caused a great deal of distress to people using services. That same day, Nigel Don raised the issue of male victims of domestic abuse and Cathie Peattie asked about training for unpaid carers.

A debate on female offenders in the criminal justice system took place on 11 February. This was based on a report from the Equal Opportunities Committee and is worth reading. Some interesting questions were raised with the Justice Secretary, including whether CSOs were appropriate for women

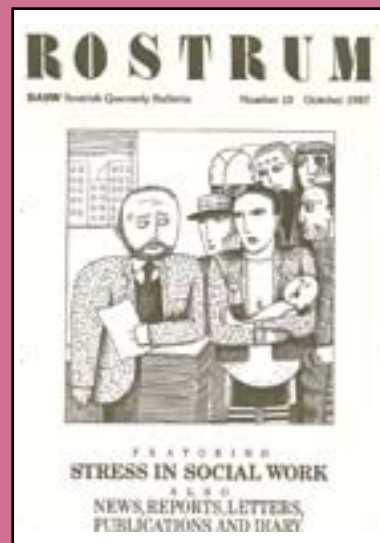
and if they were discriminated against in those currently on offer.

The Children's Hearing Bill was introduced on 23 February and the lead committee is the Education Lifelong Learning and Culture Committee. If you have an interest in this Bill and would like to contribute to BASW's work as it goes through Parliament, please email r.stark@basw.co.uk

Finally, there was an interesting debate on 18 March on the support Scotland is providing to Malawi, following the CHOGM meeting in Edinburgh several years ago. It is fascinating to see how many social service initiatives are involved and a fitting tribute to the collaboration between the two countries in the week that we celebrated World Social Work Day and it was recognised in the Parliament.

Christina McKelvie's motion read: "That the Parliament expresses its support for Scotland's National Social Care Week, beginning on 15 March 2010, and World Social Work Day on 16 March 2010 and their celebration of the excellent work in often difficult circumstances done by social workers and social care workers throughout Scotland every day; notes that 163,000 people are employed in social work or social care in Scotland, that an estimated 650,000 Scots or their families use social work services every year and that 84% of users rate services as good quality and 76% say that they help them to live more independent lives; believes that, in a time of unemployment and recession and with a growing number of older people in the Scots population, social care and social work services are more vital and more valuable than ever, and endorses the continuing work by the Association of Directors of Social Work and the Scottish Social Services Council to positively raise the profile of the social work and social care professions through the Social Work Changes Lives campaign."

Rostrum Number 10
October 1987



This issue saw a new masthead and the first of many highly original drawings, both produced by Gerry Duffy

As a profession we need Rostrum and other specialised magazines to carry on supporting the profession for another 100 editions. Happy anniversary!

ADSW
ASSOCIATION OF DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL WORK

"ADSW and BASW both mark their ruby anniversary within 12 months of each other. I am delighted to celebrate that joint achievement in this the 100th issue of Rostrum. It's a good time to look back and reflect and look forward and ask what has changed and what still needs to change in social work."
- Harriet Dempster, President, ADSW

www.adsw.org.uk

End Gypsy Traveller discrimination

EFFORTS TO recognise the discrimination faced by Scottish Gypsy Travellers are “tokenistic” and continue to leave this group as the most marginalised and discriminated against community in Scotland, according to BASW Scotland.

In its submission to a review of the work of the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC), BASW Scotland claimed that “institutionalised racism” continued against Scottish Gypsy Travellers despite report after report highlighting their marginalisation. The contribution also argued that the UK Government and EHRC’s resistance to formally recognising the ethnic status of Scottish Gypsy Travellers helped “nurture” racism against this group.

Ruth Stark, Manager of BASW Scotland, said: “Social work services are among those failing to meet the specific needs of Gypsy Travellers which is unacceptable. It is important that there is close consultation with Scottish Gypsy Travellers over the provision of ‘culturally appropriate services’ -



Institutionalised racism continues despite report after report

including social services - and for urgent efforts to highlight the need for sufficient sites on which people can live.”

BASW Scotland highlighted a report compiled in 2009 by the EHRC which itself revealed a lack of appropriate accommodation for up to a quarter of caravan dwelling Gypsies and Travellers. The report

also found “pervasive stereotyping and racism, and far reaching inequalities across multiple policy areas including education, health, social care, employment, criminal justice, and community cohesion.”

Stressing that the average life expectancy of Gypsies and Travellers is 10 years less than the “settled population” and that families are almost 20 times more likely to experience the death of one of their children, the submission demanded that the EHRC does more to ensure the needs of this minority group are addressed.

• *Gypsies and Travellers: simple solutions for living together*, available from www.equalityhumanrights.com



The Association for Infant Mental Health (UK) are delighted to announce their Annual conference & AGM Friday 14th May 09.30 – 15.30 AGM commences at 15.45

The Invisible Child: How do Children Cope with Domestic Violence?

VENUE: Newcastle United St James Park Stadium Conference Centre – Newcastle-upon-Tyne **CONFERENCE FEE:** AIMH (UK) members is £55.00. Non-members is £80.00 (includes 1 years free membership of AIMH UK)

‘Domestic violence and child abuse take a devastating toll on children and society at large. Early childhood victimization, either through direct abuse, neglect, or witnessing parental domestic violence, has been shown to have demonstrable long-term consequences for youth violence, adult violent behaviours, and other forms of criminality.’ (WIDOM 1989)

SPEAKERS INCLUDE: ● Dr Chris Harrison; Associate Professor and Chair SHSS; Warwick Medical School ● Robin Balbernie; Child Psychotherapist ● Dr Ann Horne; Child & Adolescent Psychotherapist ● George Hosking; CEO and Founder of The WAVE Trust, Economist, Psychologist and Clinical Criminologist ● Her Honour Judge Moir; Designated Family Judge for both Sunderland County Court and Newcastle County Court with an interest in infant mental health. ● Dr Janet Shaw; Head of Clinical Training NSCAP will chair the conference.

Please register your interest with the Administrator at info@aimh.org.uk as soon as possible.



Open to question

Why *not* go gentle into that good night?

I HAD known my father-in-law for 28 years and he died “peacefully” at his home two weeks ago. He was in a bedroom that we had set up with an electric adjustable bed, his oxygen machine, an electric powered reclining chair, a commode, a flat screen television and music centre.

Three of his daughters, four grandchildren and two great grandchildren lived within a mile. We were present as much as possible to help my mother-in-law. Macmillan nurses became involved, who were excellent, but also a couple of local authority “carers” that came to help for 10 minutes in the evening and morning.

This upset my mother-in-law most, as their tight schedule necessitated them being cheerfully but powerfully “brisk” with him. It distressed him to be lifted, moved and processed quicker than his muscles and bones could painlessly move. She never told us this until he had died or between us we could have arranged to do without them.

His breathing had been a serious effort for several weeks and he was prescribed oral morphine which was closely monitored. At 4.44pm on a January Saturday afternoon, with the setting sun lending the room a rich warm glow, he breathed out for a last time; and just didn't breathe in again. I was holding one hand and my mother-in-law the other.

I wondered how many people are able to make their exit in such surroundings. For many, understaffed hospital wards and care homes are the theatre for this last act. Often the moment of passing will take place alone, between scheduled “checks”- assuming they can even be made on schedule. Current concerns about standards and costs of care and the “compassion fatigued” staff who have to achieve profit or efficiency targets in value for money-driven organisations

suggest that this would be a very different experience.

The chances are high that the soon-to-be-deceased will be moved from relatively familiar, if not particularly attractive surroundings, to a place where they are not known as the person they have been, but how they now present.

They say that death is the great leveller. But it's not. If you have close family and resources, it can be a totally different experience.

And that is what makes assisted suicide a class issue. The irony is that only people who have the resources and family or friends to make their final months as comfortable as possible will have the people and resources to assist them in an early exit.

Those that are alone or living on inadequate income will arguably have the worst experiences at this stage of life. They will have more justification for taking the shortcut, but neither the resources nor the relatives to assist them in this.

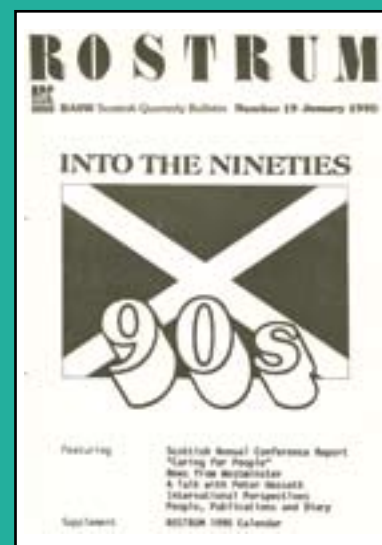
Those supporting a change in the law genuinely believe it is about dignity and choice. In a fair society then, this should surely include the provision of grants, and for public employees to be involved in assisting suicides. And indeed, at an early enough stage for the person to still take the informed decision.

What could be more logical than for social work to fulfil this role? As they say on the exam papers: “Discuss”

Cerberus



Rostrum Number 19
January 1990



A new year and a new decade, heralded in with a distinctly Scottish flavour. This issue included a report from the Scottish Annual Conference “Caring for People” and an extra bonus - the *Rostrum* 1990 Calendar!

Douglas Robertson would like to take this opportunity to wish BASW Scotland all the best during this special anniversary year and for the next 100 issues of Rostrum

Douglas Robertson Photography

BASW Awards Photographer

To see samples of all types of photography undertaken and for contact details visit:
www.douglasinscotland.co.uk

New Scotland Committee elected

FOLLOWING the online elections held over five days in February, eleven members have been voted on to the new Scotland Committee that will take up the reins after the BASW UK AGM on 20 May.

They are:

Ronnie Barnes

Service Development Officer, Adults and Older People's Services, West Lothian Council. Qualified in 1973. Immediate Past Chair of BASW UK

Robin Duncan

Social Worker, Criminal Justice Services, Falkirk Council. Treasurer of Forth Valley Branch and BASW observer on the SACRO Board

Justin Dougan

Training Officer, West Dunbartonshire Council

Rona Gray

Independent Practice Teacher and Open University Tutor, working with throughcare and aftercare for young people

Trisha Hall

Regional Director, Aberlour Child Care Trust. Experienced in evaluation and research and children and families work. Member of the PSW Editorial Board

Gordon Lockerbie

Mental Health Officer, Aberdeenshire. Qualified nurse and Practice Teacher. Managed a dementia team before moving to manage a community mental health team

John McGowan

Independent Social Worker, Practice Teacher and Open University Tutor. Experienced in child and family work and family placement

Matt McGregor

Mental Health Officer, Falkirk Council. Experienced in children and families, learning disability, mental health and adult support and protection

Ken MacLennan

Independent Social Worker, Aberdeenshire. Actively involved in equalities and human rights issues

Fiona Reed

Recently returned to Scotland with extensive experience of mental health and palliative care. Now based in the Highlands

Graeme Rizza

Experienced in children and families work in the Moray area. Current Scotland Committee Convenor

There are still four places left, including one specifically for a student social worker. Nominations can be considered by the Scotland Committee throughout the coming year.

The international perspective

THE IFSW European Delegates Meeting will be held in Malta from 15 to 17 May. This is the meeting when all the associations in Europe meet together to discuss matters of common interest, particularly in relation to the development of good policy and practice as it relates to issues in the EU and Council of Europe where we have significant representation.

We will also be doing some preparation for the world meeting in Hong Kong in June which will be held after the 2010 Joint World Conference of social workers. The next European conference will be in Brussels in 2011.

Hong Kong will be a huge event for the social professions to meet, learn from each other and identify common concerns that we need to campaign for to achieve high quality services for people who need them. There are three international organisations coming together - the International Council for Social Welfare (ICSW), International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW) and International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) and 2,000 participants are expected.

The aim of the conference is to build a work programme for the next 10 years. This is ambitious and the theme is very explicit: "Together we build the agenda, Together we face the challenges, Together we thrive".

The general meeting of the 80 members of IFSW (including BASW representing the UK) will then meet after the conference to take the issues forward globally, within our regions and in our own countries. The programme will steer our work with the UN, WHO, the EU and Council of Europe as well as our own governments.

If you would like to be part of this process, please visit www.ifsw.org or email me at: r.stark@basw.co.uk



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One hundred up and still going strong

Alan Rees, who edited *Rostrum* from 1986 to 2000, charts the history of the magazine and describes how it has developed over the last 25 years



I EXTEND my warmest congratulations to BASW on the 100th edition of *Rostrum*. I am delighted to have been invited to say something about its history. But first I want to acknowledge the huge contribution by David Mitchell, this year being his 10th year as Editor. He took on the job as a professional journalist and brought the magazine into the 21st Century as a professional publication. Under his leadership, it has grown in stature and regularly maintains a very high standard.

Beginnings 1985 to 1987: Nos 1 - 10

Rostrum had humble beginnings. Previously there were quarterly BASW Scotland Newsletters photocopied in-house. The name *Jotters* was used for the April 1985 newsletter and *Rostrum* was adopted for the following edition No 2 in July. *Rostrum* signified a more serious intention as a vehicle for BASW members to express their views.

As a practising journalist, Nicola Barry was invited to help with both editing and writing. She was supported by an editorial group consisting of Dennis Gower, then BASW Scottish Secretary; Ronnie Barnes, Scotland Convener; and myself, at that time the BASW Scotland Treasurer.

Issue No 1 included Nicola Barry's report on a conference entitled "Is the Child a Victim of the Legal Process?" held in Glasgow by the then



Rostrum Number 63 January 2001



From the mid-1990s onwards the front cover had begun to take on a standard look featuring a photograph and a contents box. This issue marked another milestone with BASW's 1000th member in Scotland, Kerstee Norris, pictured here with Director Ian Johnston and the much missed Dorothy Sutherland

Edinburgh Mailing Services would like to wish Rostrum a happy 100th birthday

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RSSPCC. It began on a note that would still strike resonances today: "Although it is rare for young children to commit murder..."

In the same issue, Dennis Gower questioned the wisdom of referring young offenders to the Glenochil Detention Centre following a suicide there and Ronnie Barnes reported on Scottish motions at BASW's 15th AGM in Swansea.

I started as Editor with No 4 in January 1986. I had little previous experience but hoped that if others did most of the writing, I could put together their contributions in an acceptable format and get it out regularly. In this we relied heavily on Johan Grant who had just succeeded Beth Williamson in the BASW office. For 11 years Beth was Secretary to Dennis Gower and her retirement was marked with

a profile in edition No 6 - the first in a long line of profiles and tributes which followed.

Early years

1987 to 1995: Nos 11 - 40

The appearance and appeal of *Rostrum* steadily improved. From No 10 in October 1987 Gerry Duffy designed the masthead, with his own drawings and graphics put together in what was then called desktop publishing. The subtitle "The Voice of Social Work" with its Gaelic translation was adopted, although only after a previous version translated as "The Voice of Socialism"!

No 28 in 1993 marked the retirement of Dennis Gower as Scottish Secretary. He was succeeded by David Colvin and both contributed enormously to

the publication - as their successors have done since.

Moirra Paterson took over from Gerry from No 32 in July 1993. Bruce Jamieson at the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations did the printing until he retired in 2000 after 25 years. Johan Grant undertook the initial typing and arranged the distribution through the quaintly titled Fulfilment Factory.

Development

1995 to 2000: Nos 41 - 59

Many people contributed to *Rostrum* as they still do. However we also tried to get regular Scotland-wide coverage by appointing "correspondents". Amongst these were Basil Kift, Frank Murphy and Tim Parkinson. There were also Branch reports, notably and most regularly by the late Dorothy Sutherland for Forth Valley Branch.

We increased the number of inserted leaflets and included lists of publications requiring review, for which the reviewer retained the book. The inserts brought in a small amount of much needed income to cover free distribution to non-members such as MSPs. Also sent annually with *Rostrum* was a wall calendar with publication dates clearly marked.

A subject index covering editions 1 to 42 was first compiled by Mary Henderson and inserted into issue No 27 in January 1992. It was updated by myself to mark the 10th year of publication. It shows that care in the community was the most frequently covered topic with 12 entries, followed by articles on the Central Council for Education and Training in Social Work (CCETSW). Child abuse or protection and BASW reorganisation were joint third. Hopefully, it will now be brought up to date after this 100th edition.



ONE OF the great privileges of my career was to be the first editor of *Rostrum* - or *Jotters* as it was called back in 1985.

It was renamed *Rostrum* in the summer of that same year and the editorship taken over by an erudite man called Alan Rees. I continued to contribute, mainly profiles, for the next three years.

It was a place to express views which, at that time, were not popular; a time when social workers were thought to

fly around on broomsticks in the middle of the night, swooping down on innocent families, snatching their children and placing them in the care of someone unsuitable.

Much has changed since those days, especially the stereotype. Social work is no longer about people in sandals with beards. These days social workers are as smartly dressed as any office worker.

And ever since the 1980s, *Rostrum* has continued to fight the cause of social work, especially when other media have turned against the profession with some vitriol and force.

A quarter of a century later, my successors have expertly managed to reflect the changing face of the profession and those who work in it.

I wish the magazine another 25 years of brilliance and feel proud to have been there at the start.

Nicola Barry, Journalist and Author

CONGRATULATIONS to *Rostrum*! I hope that glasses will be raised - in Edinburgh and elsewhere - as we look forward to spreading the good news of social work for a long time to come.

And congratulations to the present Editor for a splendid magazine full of good news - surely a journalist worth his salt who doesn't just print bad news!

My very best wishes to him, the Editorial Group and to all their readers. With social work much in the news nowadays, let's blow our own trumpets a lot more!

Dennis Gower, Scottish Secretary, BASW, 1975 to 1992



Professional era

2000 to 2010: Nos 60 - 100

Rostrum's 60th edition in April 2000 was headed "Landmarks" - it was Millennium year and BASW's 30th. My final editorial was in July 2000. The appointment of David Mitchell as Editor saw the appearance and content of *Rostrum* dramatically improve.

In his first editorial in October 2000 David said that a BASW Scotland questionnaire showed that *Rostrum* was one of the services which members valued most with its rich mix of news and opinion. He led from the front, the same issue also containing a "Self Profile"!

The cover of No 63 January 2001 pictured Kerstee Norris, BASW's 1,000th member in Scotland. New regular features introduced during this period included A Week in the Life of..., On the Front Line and MediaWatch.

The appointment of Carle Murphy of Smallprint Services as Designer in 2003 saw another leap forward. With the use of more sophisticated software a clearer, more modern design was unveiled for No 83 in January 2006 and full colour - first used only on the cover - was introduced throughout the whole magazine in No 85 in July 2006.

The future

What of the future? Well it's not really for me to say. I am confident the publication will keep its specific Scottish flavour and constantly strive to reach a larger and wider readership. The Editorial Group is always seeking ideas and contributions to make it truly the voice of social work. As this happens, a greater number of readers will encourage advertising and this in turn will help to sustain the publication financially. Please give it every support.

- If you wish to look at back numbers, archive copies are lodged with the National Library for Scotland and the Heatherbank Museum of Social Work, as well as the BASW Scotland Office.

Alan Rees MBE is a Life Member of BASW. As a Member of the Association of Social Workers, he joined BASW when it was first established. After retiring in 1993 after 17 years with the Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations' Council he continues to be involved with BASW and Rostrum, and works in various capacities on children's play projects and with disabled people on transport issues

Rostrum Number 88 April 2007



From issue no 85 in July 2006 *Rostrum* has been printed in full colour giving much more scope for eye-catching photographs like this one, following a BASW study trip to Paris. Full colour has enhanced the news and features, and allowed readers to enjoy much better coverage of special events such as the BASW Scotland Social Work Awards

Holyrood magazine would like to wish Rostrum a very happy 100th birthday

We would like to offer all *Rostrum* readers a special two free issue trial of *Holyrood* magazine.

If you would like to take this offer up, please Email: subscriptions@holyrood.com

www.holyrood.com

A memorable weekend

Scott Hunter, last year's Residential Care Worker of the Year, describes a winter break as part of his BASW Scotland Award

HAVING won the award for Residential Care Worker of the Year 2008, I was pleasantly surprised to be informed that this honour also came with a weekend break. After much deliberation and discussion with my wife, we decided on a weekend's shopping and sightseeing weekend in Edinburgh.



three kids children left behind with my mother-in-law and how much we missed them, given this was the first time we had been away from them. After two or three minutes, we then took the time to savour a quiet and relaxing meal with the added indigestions which usually follow.

On Saturday we took in the many and wonderful sights of the capital. My wife Vicky marvelled at Edinburgh Castle and while I had a longing desire to take in the culture and pride of a tour of Murrayfield Stadium, where many



rugby legends have stepped out onto the pitch, found myself in Harvey Nichols and Jenners. No difference there then.

After having as much exercise walking up and down Princes Street more times than I could run round Murrayfield, we had a well-earned rest. That night we took in a show, *Stomp*, which can only be described in one word: mesmerising. The ability to make music from anything including the kitchen sink and hold audience's attention for nearly two hours was amazing.

This was a truly memorable experience and we will definitely be making this an annual winter break.

Scott Hunter is House Manager of Fort Street Children's House in Motherwell



Last year's Social Worker of the Year Willie Macfadyen, who works for Hayfield Support Services with Deaf People, took his wife Jean to see the sights and sounds of Madrid as part of his BASW Scotland Award

Publications for review

The following have been received by the Editor and are available for review in *Rostrum*.

From Jessica Kingsley Publishers



Mental Health, Service User Involvement and Recovery

Edited by Jenny Weinstein, 2009
ISBN 978-1-84310-688-3,
224 pages, £19.99

A Practical Guide to Caring for Children and Teenagers with Attachment Difficulties

Chris Taylor, 2010
ISBN 978-1-84905-081-4,
224 pages, £18.99

Substance Misuse

Edited by Joy Barlow, 2009
ISBN 978-1-84310-696-8,
240 pages, £22.99

From Russell House Publishing



The Concerned Other: How to change problematic drug and alcohol users through their family members

Phil Harris, 2010
ISBN 978-1-90554-148-5,
304 pages, £49.95

From the British Association for Adoption and Fostering



Pushing the Boundaries of Assessment

Jennifer Cousins, 2010
ISBN 978-1-90566-486-3,
80 pages, £11.95

*A review copy will be sent to anyone interested. Reviews for the next edition to be received by 1 June 2010
Contact: BASW Scotland Office,
Tel: 0131 221 9445
Email: j.grant@basw.co.uk*



Adam Ingram addresses the guests in the Great Hall

Social workers are honoured

MORE THAN 160 people gathered in the magnificent Great Hall of Edinburgh Castle for the presentation of this year's BASW Scotland Social Work Awards.

Now in their third year, the awards formed part of a joint celebration of World Social Work Day 2010 during a reception hosted by Children and Early Years Minister Adam Ingram.

Lara Macpherson, a Social Worker with South Lanarkshire's Child and Families Services, was named Student Social Worker of the Year while **Greig Bryce**, a Senior Residential Worker at East Ayrshire Council's Sunnyside Children's House, was Residential Care Worker of the Year.

Ella Brown, a Senior Social Worker with North Lanarkshire Council, won the Social Worker of the Year award for her work with young people in the council's Community Alternatives project.

The winners each received a trophy to keep, a weekend break in Europe and a year's free membership of BASW.

Mr Ingram said that for every bad news story, there were thousands of children helped, families supported and lives improved through the commitment and professionalism of front line social workers.

"I would like to take this opportunity to recognise and thank our social services workforce for their tireless efforts to improve outcomes - not just for children, but everyone in need of protection and support," he said.

"Social care is life-changing work and one of the most demanding and complex tasks we ask any group to do on our behalf. Your skill, commitment, enthusiasm and creativity in undertaking social care describes the very best of social services in Scotland.

"You are evidence of the positive and innovative environment we wish to create for the social services workforce of the 21st Century - an environment in which social care staff are developed, valued and rewarded for the excellent work you do."

Award winners 2009

Social Worker of the Year:

Ella Brown, Senior Social Worker, North Lanarkshire Council

Highly commended:

Sharon Ballingall, Social Worker for Young People, Rachel House, Kinross

Eddie Anderson, Social Worker, Scottish Borders Council

Residential Care Worker of the Year:

Greig Bryce, Senior Residential Worker, Sunnyside Children's House, Auchinleck, East Ayrshire

Highly commended:

Tracey Taylor, Unit Manager, Wick Children's Centre, Highland Council

Student Social Worker of the Year:

Lara Macpherson, Master in Social Work, Glasgow School of Social Work

Highly commended:

Keeley Mudd, MSc in Social Work, Stirling University

Ann Martin, BA (Hons) in Social Work, the Open University

Ellen Smith, BA (Hons) in Social Work, the Open University

All photographs by Douglas Robertson Photography
www.douglasinScotland.co.uk



Student Social Worker of the Year

Lara Macpherson

Lara, a Social Worker with South Lanarkshire's Child and Families Services, is completing a Master of Social Work at Glasgow School of Social Work, having gained her Postgraduate Diploma last June.

During her final placement with voluntary agency Circle, she excelled at supporting the families of women with addiction problems being released from Cornton Vale Prison, coping with an injecting heroin user who collapsed before a court hearing and helping an eight-year-old child come to terms with her mother's addiction.

Lara said: "To receive this award has been both inspiring and motivating for me at the beginning of my social work career. My relatively short journey into social work has brought its challenges but it has been more than worth it.

"It also raises awareness of the crucial work Circle do with children and families affected by substance misuse and the high quality of teaching at Glasgow School of Social Work, as well as the positive social work carried out by South Lanarkshire Council."

Residential Care Worker of the Year

Greig Bryce

Greig is a Senior Residential Worker at Sunnyside Children's House in Auchinleck, East Ayrshire, working with vulnerable young people who have been accommodated up to the age of 18.

As leader of the night shift team, he has pioneered many improvements, including a co-key worker system to identify case responsibility for individual young people and late night activities such as Ghost Walks to help strengthen bonds with staff.

He said: "Being part of such a prestigious event was fantastic but to win is amazing. The whole team should be really proud, particularly the night shift team.

"Through things like co-keyworking, planning and leading activities and investing in one to one time, the nightshift team has build fantastic relationships with the young people we look after.

"I really appreciate the recognition and honour that this award brings. I think there should be more awards like these as there's a lot of good work out there that deserves to be recognised."

Social Worker of the Year

Ella Brown

Ella is a Senior Social Worker with North Lanarkshire Council's Community Alternatives project which offers intensive support to young people aged 12 to 21 who are at risk of being accommodated, at risk of custody or are returning to the community.

She developed her team of mostly paraprofessional staff to such a high standard that it has been recognised by SWIA as a good practice example. As a result, numbers of young people being accommodated have fallen and the team's methods of working in child care and criminal justice extended to other services.

She said: "The award means a great deal for the achievement of my efforts, along with others, in working and developing the team to provide the type of services that young people benefit from and gives me confidence in my role.

"Nominations come from all over Scotland and the team is very proud and delighted that I've won it. And the fact that our service is recognised as good practice is fantastic."

Highly Commended: Social Worker of the Year

Sharon Ballingall

Sharon is a Social Worker for Young People at Scotland's first children's hospice, Rachel House in Kinross, run by the Children's Hospice Association Scotland. As part of a multidisciplinary team, she constantly strives to identify and meet the needs of young people and their families and is never afraid to try new approaches. Overcoming her own emotions, she offers selfless support and contributes to the field of palliative care and social work with new insights and knowledge of working with young people with life-limiting conditions.

Highly Commended: Social Worker of the Year

Eddie Anderson

Eddie has been nominated for his 18 years' dedicated service as a Social Worker for blind and visually impaired people with RNIB Scotland, having recently left to become a Social Worker with Scottish Borders Council. Renowned for his kindness and expertise, he specialised in helping blind and partially sighted people in Edinburgh, East Lothian and Midlothian, including those with complex needs. Eddie's father has been registered blind from the age of 15 and so it is second nature for him to see the person and not the disability.

Highly Commended: Residential Care Worker of the Year

Tracey Taylor

Tracey is Unit Manager of Highland Council's Wick Children's Centre which works with young people who are being accommodated aged 12 to 17. Since taking up the post two and half years ago, she has shown outstanding leadership skills which resulted in better staff morale, improved team working and higher quality of care as evidenced by some very good inspection reports. She also introduced a personalised approach to the young people which respects diversity and culture and promotes equality and inclusion.

Highly Commended: Student Social Worker of the Year

Keeley Mudd

Keeley is in the final year of her MSc in Social Work Studies at Stirling University, having previously gained a degree in Sociology and Criminology. While on placement at the Harmeny School, Balerno, she worked imaginatively with children and young people living away from home to both value them and recognise the importance of the continuing role of their parents. She was also able to challenge some of the practices of the agency in a thoughtful and diplomatic way.

Highly Commended: Student Social Worker of the Year

Ann Martin

Ann is a Social Work Assistant with Argyll and Bute Council and is currently completing the final year of her BA (Hons) in Social Work with the Open University. During her first placement at a residential care home in Ardrishaig, her exemplary practice with a service user significantly improved their quality of life. She also helped set up a process to enable residents to be involved in the selection of care staff which has now been incorporated into the practice of the establishment.

Highly Commended: Student Social Worker of the Year

Ellen Smith

Ellen, a Social Care Worker with Glasgow City Council, overcame adversity to achieve her BA (Hons) in Social Work through the Open University. Despite being involved in a serious car crash, she showed a strong determination to complete her course which has been an inspiration to fellow students and workmates. During her placement with a social work team working with adults with learning disabilities in East Dunbartonshire, she was able to develop a strong rapport with this client group.



HUMAN RIGHTS was the theme of the evening as the speakers celebrated World Social Work Day 2010 "Making human rights real: the Social Work agenda" and the BASW Scotland Social Work Awards.

BASW Scotland Manager Ruth Stark, who is also the IFSW's Human Rights Commissioner, thanked the Scottish Government for its continued support for the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

"They have taken a real lead in their response to the UNCRC and are really helping us to focus on how our policy and practice can ensure that we respect young people's rights," she said.



David Jones, President of the IFSW, said the most difficult thing about human rights was to work to reconcile two people's rights when they were in conflict and social workers were often right in the middle of that.



Sometimes, social workers got it wrong and it was right that there were now structures and institutions in place to confront bad practice.



"But most of the time they are there out of commitment and a general sense of passion to be alongside people in their distress and difficulty, often at great personal sacrifice which isn't recognised," he said.



"Social workers don't realise what fantastic work they do. We need to say that more often to our social workers, we need to encourage them more and it's events like this that help to do that."

The evening was interspersed with two humorous poems read by former social worker turned poet Alastair Finlay - *I am Robert Burns*, *headcase* and *Swearing* - from his collection *Dancing with Big Eunice*.

Giving the vote of thanks Hilton Dawson, Chief Executive of BASW UK, paid tribute to Adam Ingram who had "stood up for the values of social work" in ways that other Ministers had not.

Hilton said it was a real mark of the quality of work being undertaken in Scotland that residential care had featured so prominently in the awards.

He concluded: "It's been a magnificent night. Social work should be celebrated in places like this!"

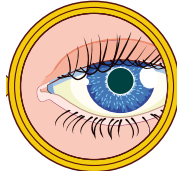


The award nominees with Minister Adam Ingram and Graeme Rizza, Convenor of BASW Scotland

The Great Hall at Edinburgh Castle, where monarchs have feasted, provided a spectacular backdrop for the awards ceremony. Afterwards guests were invited to visit the Honours of Scotland exhibition and enjoy a close up view of Scotland's crown jewels and the Stone of Destiny



MediaWatch



Precious

(110 mins) Distributed by Lions Gate

Entertainment. Selected cinemas

Reviewed by Charlene Gay

Set in Harlem, New York in 1987, *Precious* manages to explore - with honesty and courage - many issues including abuse, sexuality and poverty in quite a short space of time.

It is a raw but moving film based on the novel *Push* by American author and performance poet Sapphire. And although this can make the viewing quite intense at times, don't be misled - this is more than just another trag-lit movie.

Precious is the story of 16-year-old Claireece "Precious" Jones, played by unknown actress Gabourey Sidibe, who lives with her abusive mother and is faced with the prospect of her second child, conceived as a result of her father's sexual abuse.

The film was deservedly nominated for six Oscars, winning Best Supporting Actress for comedienne and chat show host Mo'Nique and Best Adapted Screenplay. Mo'Nique also won a Golden Globe award for her powerful performance as Claireece's abusive mother.

However, the film's success has to be attributed to the thought-provoking writing and screenplay

which is so clever and original that it captivates and enables the viewer to share in the characters' anxiety and despair.

With the use of clever plot devices, you share in Claireece's fantasies and escapism as well as her hope that there is a better life for her outside the closed walls and private hell created for her by her parents. And whilst you are on this journey you also share in her invisibility of what it is to come from an abusive family.

This film has a definite behind closed doors feel to it, from the insight into Claireece's mind to the before and after scenes of when the social worker visits the family. Later on in the film, Claireece finally has to speak out against her hidden home life and begins to attend an alternative school.

It is here that the film takes on a tender meaning and will also echo situations that anyone working in education or with children and young people will recognise. The



role of Claireece's classmates and her caring tutor change this film from gritty and raw, to a story of determinism and inspiration.

If you have seen or heard any of the promotion for the film, you will probably know that Mariah Carey drabs down and sheds her vocal range and heels to play a husky and frustrated social worker.

Her appearance is somewhat overrated as she only makes two fairly brief appearances. But she brings an unexpected sincerity to her role and provides a sympathetic and dare I say likeable character. In all fairness, the appearance of Carey is not hugely significant to the role but if it gains the film the attention and notoriety it deserves

then it can only be a good thing.

Sometimes this film is uncomfortable to watch and contains graphic scenes of sexual abuse which are definitely not for the easily offended. But if you can overcome this then *Precious* is provoking, brave and will live on in your mind for days after. However dark it gets, it is littered with rays of light that will have you chuckling when you know you shouldn't.

It would be nice to have seen this film shown more nationally as very few cinemas dedicated space to it. However, it definitely has the potential to become a cult success and do for issue of child abuse what *Trainspotting* did for substance abuse.

Charlene Gay is a second year student on the BA (Hons) in Social Work course at Stirling University



Give Me a Voice
BBC Radio Scotland, 26 February
Reviewed by Anne Black

THIS RADIO programme was developed through the Debate Project, part of the Scottish Throughcare & Aftercare Forum. All the young people who took part wanted to promote changes so that the care system does not fail young people. They courageously shared their stories and their ideas for change.

Chris was the main voice throughout but his experiences mirrored many of the others. He described how he was taken away from his alcoholic mother by three unknown people and his clothes - no toys - bundled into bags. There was no discussion about what was happening or where he was going.

He had three foster placements and a failed adoption before he was placed with Jackie and Kenny. Chris longed for a place in the country and a dog. He longed to know what was happening to him. Arriving at the door, a dog barked, Jackie opened the door and Chris felt his dream had come true!

The programme switched to the foster carers who were very open about the struggles that Chris faced - afraid of making a mess, never relaxing, not able to get into being part of the family for many months and always dogged by the idea that the past failures were his fault.

Jackie understood his anger and worked with it. The local school was experienced in working with children in foster care, most likely because Jackie and Kenny had fostered 40 plus children over the years. Jackie spoke with pride about Chris growing up with them and being treated as one of the family until he left care at 18.

Jackie and Kenny were justly proud of his achievements but the most important thing for them was that he had grown up into a "nice caring adult". Their satisfaction in fostering is that they make a difference to the lives of the children they look after,

recognising that all the children are grieving in some way whatever their family circumstances.

The programme also discussed some of the things that young people felt were wrong about the care system and their personal stories were powerful. One young person had had nine social workers in a year. This meant that no relationships were created and new social workers often meant a new plan.

All the young people and the carers felt that social workers were not asking young people for their views. "Ask the kids - they need a say".

Chris found children's hearings particularly difficult - faced with several people all sitting in a room, few known to him. They would ask him how he was and he'd say: "Fine". He remembers then being asked to leave while those left behind, whom he felt hardly knew him, discussed his plan.

"Why send the young person out? Why not just have the people who knew him there? Why did they not want to hear his opinion?" It was his life. This a message that the Government and other people developing plans for the revised arrangements for children's hearings need to hear so that panel members listen to young people like Chris before final decisions are made.

Amy from the Debate Project spoke about empowering young people by getting them to organise and chair events so that their voices are at the centre of the proceedings. These are young people who are passionate for change so that the care system improves. Workers need to establish trust with young people and try to reduce the placement moves that so many of the young people in her project experienced.

Some other quotes:

Jenny "I felt ignored in the children's hearings system and workers gave me no emotional

support."

James: "I felt I had to start my life over again every two years as I moved placements. Black bags are for rubbish - little things like buying a rucksack for every child would make such a difference." Heidi: "I had the same social worker all through - she even delayed her retirement till I left care."

Cheryl: "I had a really good foster family who became my family."

William: "I was able to stay at the same school."

Who Cares? Scotland also contributed to the programme and spoke of its anti-stigma campaign for looked after children. It wants to ensure that people understand that young people are in care because their safety is at risk, not because they are bad.

So what were the key messages from a very thoughtful programme? Young people need:

- A consistent social worker while they are in care
- Not to be moved from home to home
- To be listened to and their views respected
- To be able to stay in foster care longer
- Services when they leave care, including counselling
- Emotional support
- Better funding for services from the Scottish Government and councils.

Whilst it was depressing to hear the same issues that have been around for many years, there was a hopeful message that we have many young people who have had good experiences and for those who have had less good experiences projects are there to give them a voice. Decision makers and funders need to hear those voices.

Anne Black is an Independent Social Work Consultant



Kay Carmichael: A tribute

1925 - 2009

Kay Richards

NO ONE in Scotland who has worked within the fields of sociology, politics, social work, family welfare, criminology or health could have failed to be aware of the passion and commitment Kay Carmichael brought to everything she did and shared with others.

Since her death at the age of 84 on 26 December last year, numerous obituaries have widened our knowledge and understanding of Kay and the breadth of her contribution in so many fields.

Following one obituary, Lord Donoughue of Ashton wrote: "You covered well the achievements of Kay Carmichael's remarkable life but perhaps missing was the delightful flavour of her wonderful personality. She worked for me in Harold Wilson's Policy Unit and her lovely smile and lilting voice as she came through the door in No 10 lifted our morale in those testing times.

"Despite her deprived childhood and polio disability she had an indomitable spirit. She helped guide us through the tricky waters of Scottish politics. She had a strong feeling for Scottish identity and her later attachment to the Nationalists reflected her Highland romanticism. She persuaded me to persuade the Prime Minister to launch the Gaelic radio channel which persists today. She was a true force of warm good nature." (Lives Remembered, *TimesOnline*)

Keith Bilton of the Social Work History Network added: "Kay Carmichael made an extremely important contribution to the shaping of the 1968 Social Work (Scotland) Act. As an adviser to Judith Hart MP, Kay played an important part in persuading the Scottish Office that a more ambitious approach was needed, bringing the whole of the probation service into the new departments."



Reflecting on the influence of Kay Carmichael within the social work scene and after speaking briefly to Vera Hiddlestone and Vivienne Triseliotis, both of whom knew Kay well, it is clear that her education and practice as a psychiatric social worker was crucial to her work with offenders.

Kay's ability and fluency as a speaker and as a lecturer found many students leaving their classroom realising "We've got a distinctive teacher here". Although not everyone shared her views, her ideas were challenging and well respected.

When as a medical social worker I was involved in several aspects of the development of professional social work in Scotland in the late 1960s and early 1970s, Kay Carmichael was a name well known to me.

We sometimes had a cup of tea between meetings and later, when I was working in London and travelling to Glasgow for a meeting, she would meet me off the night train at Central Station. There, over breakfast, she would keep me updated on the Scottish scene.

Kay qualified as a psychiatric social worker in 1957 at Edinburgh University. Her belief in lifelong learning was evidenced by the completion her PhD in Theology and English at Glasgow University in 2001 at the age of 76. Her thesis was published under the title *Sin and Forgiveness: New Responses in a Changing World* (Ashgate, 2003).

She writes that western attitudes in the past were rooted in concepts of sin, redemption and forgiveness and asks: "What happens to offenders and to society as a whole in a world where people no longer talk of sin but of evil... will revenge take the place of forgiveness?"

With the press currently full of curiosity about the recent activities of one of James Bulger's killers, Kay's explorations of the dilemmas created by public responses to such crimes are well worth reading. She also examines such matters as poverty, slavery, violence and war as sins of structures. Sceptical about contemporary appeals for forgiveness (public figures saying sorry) she expresses hopes for ideas of restorative justice.

Others will have known different aspects of Kay, her work and ideas. For me, the fact that she continued to be passionate about her interests and to write so tellingly for as long as she did seems to me to be an exceptional legacy.

Someone said Kay was always there first. How pertinent today.

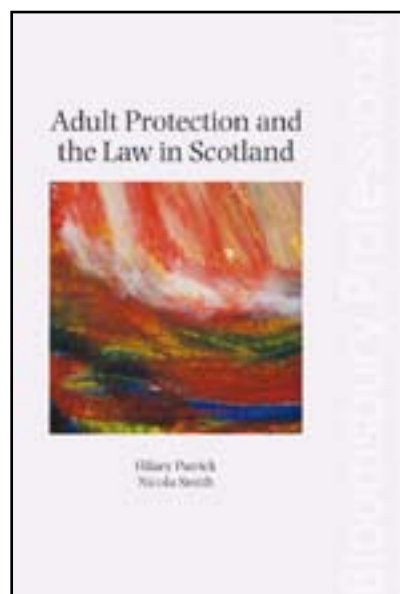
Kay Richards has held senior management posts at the National Institute for Social Work, Hertfordshire and Brent Social Services Departments, and was Chair of BASW UK from 1974 to 1976

BOOK REVIEWS

Adult Protection and the Law in Scotland

Hilary Patrick and Nicola Smith
Bloomsbury Professional, 2009
ISBN: 978-1-84766-487-7, £38
*Reviewed by Ronnie Barnes,
Service Development Officer,
Adults and Older People's
Services, West Lothian Council*

IT HAS not taken long for a textbook to emerge to help those working in the field of adult protection get to grips with the relatively new Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007. This book is aimed at lawyers, doctors, social workers, mental health officers, independent advocates and other professionals, as well as private and voluntary organisations, and somewhat surprisingly individual service users and their families and carers.



The authors are both solicitors so inevitably there is a strong legal interpretation but overall it is couched in easy to understand language with a good attempt to explain both the policy and legal intentions behind this legislation. They contend that it is short enough to be read from start to finish but realistically it is more likely to be referred to as and when required.

The authors begin by helpfully setting the new Act in the context of legislation passed by the Scottish Parliament since its inception in 1999. They then move on to consider the main legislation which relates to adult protection and describe their relevance. While the new Adult Support and Protection Act may have prompted this book, it is important to have the Act and its relationship and interdependence with other legislation outlined.

There is an important chapter concerning the principles of adult protection law and the authors rightly gave a lot of attention to how it should work in practice. They point out that both the Adults with Incapacity (Scotland) Act 2000 and the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003 are value-based. It is a helpful reminder that any laws passed post-devolution should as far as possible be based on sound ethical underpinning.

Another chapter is devoted solely to the likely types of harm and abuse encountered in adult protection. This helps ground the reader in the legal definitions of harm and abuse in respect of each of the three main Acts. The next chapter looks extensively at the role of the local authority, the responsibilities placed upon it and the duties and powers under which it can investigate harm. Other chapters concentrate on what other organisations are required to undertake in respect of powers and duties.

Supporting the adult contains rights under the various Acts to advocacy, either automatically under the Mental Health Care and Treatment Act or as an obligation "to consider" provision of advocacy under the Adult Support and Protection Act. There is a very pertinent and insightful chapter on human rights and how they have come to the fore in the UK over the last 10 years. Given that human rights is one of the underpinning

factors of the new Act, this goes into the origins of human rights thinking in some detail.

This book is well laid out with excellent contents pages and a comprehensive index, making it easy to dip into as required. Threaded throughout are blocks of what the authors call "Principles and Practice", which attempt to explore how the principles help develop good practice. This will help readers wrestling with the various complexities caused by trying to enact the legislation.

As Scotland settles down to work through this new Act, there is now a book which brings the adult protection framework into one volume. Whilst it cannot - and indeed does not - instruct the reader to the perfect answer, it does set out the extent and limitations in which adult protection now has to operate. Only time, experience and the emergence of case law will start to inform outcomes. In the meantime, Hilary Patrick and Nicola Smith have made a significant contribution to our collective understanding of this new law.

Learning From Child Deaths and Serious Abuse

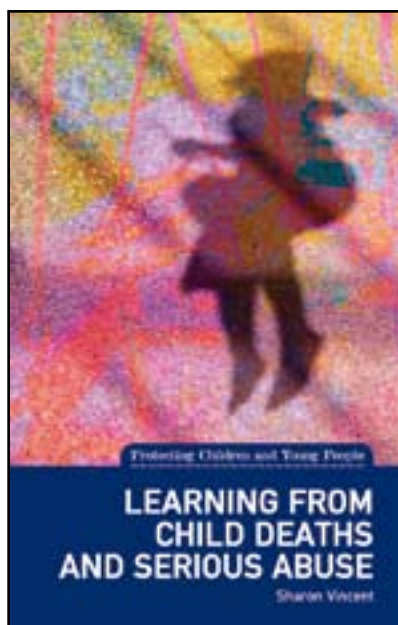
Sharon Vincent
Dunedin Academic Press, 2009
ISBN: 978-1-903765-96-8, £14.95
*Reviewed by Iain McDonald,
Temporary Social Worker,
Edinburgh City Council*

WHAT CAN be learned from child death and serious abuse in Scotland is the focus of this book. However, as there have been relatively few inquiries in Scotland, other UK inquiries and research are used to highlight what can be learnt for practice in Scotland. It does so by the provision of both learning points within chapters and detailed chapter conclusions.

The first chapter focuses on providing the context for the rest of the book. It notes amongst other

factors that of the 5,000 deaths each year of children under the age of 15, 30 to 50 per cent of these are unexpected. These figures are however derived from a number of sources, making an analysis of possible preventative measures that more difficult.

Chapter Two looks at the inquiry process throughout the UK, including Serious Case Reviews. It asks whether such reviews provide sufficient scope for learning and prevention rather than providing an explanation of what has happened to a child. However, the role of Local Safeguarding Children Boards in England and Wales in establishing Child Death Overview Panels suggests a move towards prevention as part of a wider public health strategy.



Chapter Three outlines the various inquiries in Scotland and notes that these have been convened by various bodies and covered individual as well as historical institutional-based inquiries. It notes that the latter such as the Edinburgh Inquiry have adopted an inquisitorial rather than an adversarial approach, providing more scope for learning broad lessons as opposed to establishing guilt.

The remaining chapters focus on lessons learnt from Scottish inquiries and how they influence both legislation, for example the Orkney Report, and policy, for

example the Kennedy McFarlane inquiry. It is argued that legislation derived from inquiries may not necessarily improve the safety of children in that it is based upon a response to infrequent events. But it is possible that policies such as *Getting it right for every child* may in the longer term help to protect children and thus be of greater value.

All in all, this book tackles complex issues in a thoughtful but concise manner making use of the most up to date research. As such, it will be of great value to all practitioners and managers in children's services.

Death, Dying and Bereavement: Issues for Practice

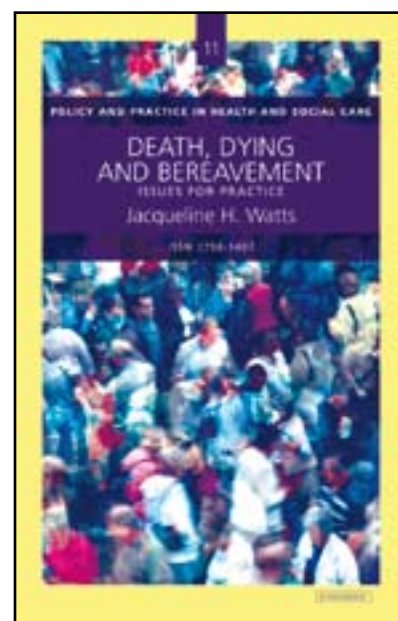
Jacqueline H Watts
Dunedin Academic Press, 2010
ISBN 978-1-906711-608-0, £14.50
*Reviewed by Moira Dunworth,
Independent Practice Teacher*

THIS short book offers us a well-referenced overview of death, dying, grief and bereavement in the UK. It is written in Scotland and so, refreshingly, makes that clear as a context but is inclusive about the rest of the UK. Jackie Watts looks at death and dying in a holistic way and opens with a critical look at how it is managed in Britain today. Whilst acknowledging the cultural diversity within British society, she points to the invisibility of death on a personal level and consequent lack of preparation for the experience of losing a loved one or, indeed, facing one's own death.

Notwithstanding the series title, Policy and Practice in Health and Social Care, the book is aimed at a nursing audience but does try to include social care perspectives. A great deal of what is relevant to nursing is relevant to social work and social care, of course, but nurses will be more interested in the chapter on hospice development and provision and the sections on care of the dying.

Chapter Five, Understanding

Grief, offers an overview of theories of grief and bereavement and would be useful to all social workers and social work students.



This covers the development of grief theories from the idea that we resolve our grief and "get over it" in stages to the dual process model of grief as a dynamic process of oscillation between loss and restoration. It also discusses the relatively recent biographical approach to bereavement which runs counter to the traditional idea of "letting go" because it suggests we cope by "holding on". Memorial websites to deceased loved ones are examples of this in action.

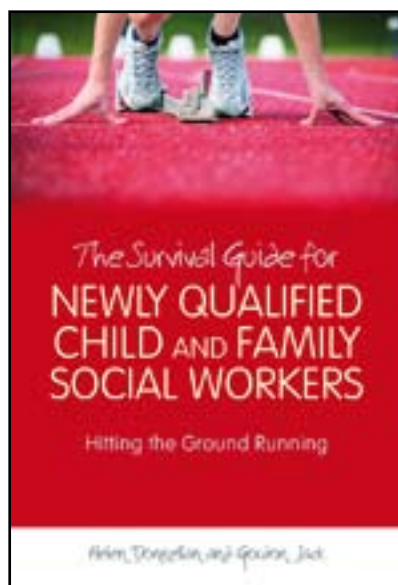
The final chapter on Issues for Policy and Practice focuses almost exclusively on health policy and practice. Where it discusses multidisciplinary work, it means collaboration between health-based disciplines, a use of "multidisciplinary" with which health-based social work colleagues will be very familiar.

This book is comprehensive in its coverage, though it does not pretend to explore one area in any great depth. It is well-referenced and so a good resource for students and practice learning colleagues. Apart from the very useful chapter on Understanding Grief, I found it a bit earnest and uninspiring, but it is a Scottish-based, up to date resource for those interested in this area.

The Survival Guide for Newly Qualified Child and Family Social Workers: Hitting the Ground Running

Helen Donnellan and Gordon Jack
Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 2009
ISBN 978-1-84310-989-1, £18.99
Reviewed by Rona Gray, Open University Tutor and Transitions Team Social Worker, Scottish Borders Council

WHEN I SAW the title of this book, I thought it unique. Much of what we write and read about in this profession focuses on areas of specialist practice, users' experience or approaches. So something on the whole experience of actually doing the job is quite unusual. Many of us have supported students to the end of their degree and DipSW but with SSSC Post Registration Training and Development (PRTL) requirements there is rightly more attention to what happens when they start their qualified practice.



The title refers specifically to the child and family context but really the content is not that specific and relevant to all areas of statutory work and much else besides. The book relates to a small piece of research involving different levels of practitioner and management in three local authorities in south west England. However, there are suggestions for individuals, teams

and organisations and these positive strategies give the book an overall optimistic presentation. The message is "be proactive", where possible, in meeting both emotional and professional needs. It's a survival guide but it aims for job satisfaction too.

The book is in four parts and the contents are divided and detailed to such an extent that it is easy to search for quite specific issues. The first section is rather aptly headed Thud! Professional Status and looks at the early days and transition, emphasising the need for relevant induction and supervision. The second and third sections then progress through the stages of getting more fully engaged with the role and tasks, then consolidation.

The fourth section looks to the longer term and relates the experience of social work practice in the organisational context, culture and management - something that should have a higher status in training I often think. Here, there is useful direction on writing the evidence for PRTL required of newly qualified workers after one year on the register. There are numerous exercises throughout that can be brought in to daily work, supervision, team work and appraisal.

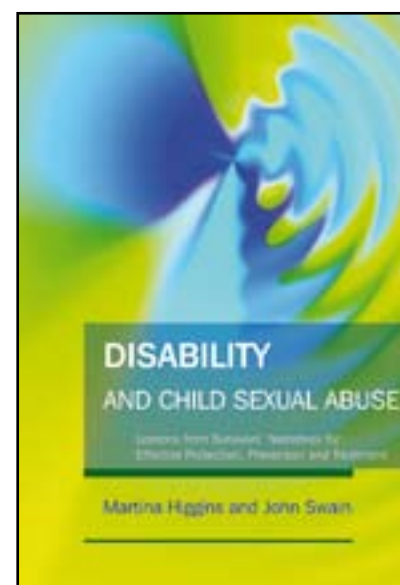
One criticism is the format and structure. I felt it was overly long and in a few places lost its focus as a particular issue was developed. However, this is of as much relevance to those preparing students in the later months of qualifying as it is to newly qualified workers and managers in that first job. It could also be useful to those who have limited experience of statutory work before training or with limited placement opportunities in this area.

I was hoping to have a newly qualified worker's view on the book but this couldn't be achieved in the timescale of the review. I will certainly take the chance to share this amongst people I know as recent graduates to gain their view on the value of the book.

Disability and Child Sexual Abuse: Lessons from Survivors' Narratives for Effective Protection, Prevention and Treatment.

Martina Higgins and John Swain
Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 2009
ISBN 978-1-84310-563-3, £22.99
Reviewed by Helen Ruffell, Social Worker, Children with Disabilities Team, Falkirk Council

TO WHOM would I recommend this book? I am not sure. It was written following a research project for a doctorate and is based on the stories of seven disabled adults who were abused as children.



The opening chapters seem to have been written to fulfil academic expectations but the book comes to life in the following chapters when the voices of the survivors are heard.

The survivors' stories are honest, courageous and heart rending. They were able to tell their stories although not without overcoming considerable difficulty. I fear for the disabled children whose attempts to tell their stories were not successful.

This book does not give any pointers to identifying abuse when children are unable to verbalise their stories. None of the survivors who participated in the project had what my colleagues in health would call an "exceptional health care need" and the survivors'

narratives would go only a small way towards effective prevention and treatment for these children.

I would not recommend the book to anyone who had expertise in this area as it might not extend their thinking. I would, however, recommend it to anyone starting out to work with sexual abuse.

The devastating effect of sexual abuse is succinctly and clearly outlined. The abuse of power and violence involved are not understated. There are useful chapters on the strategies people use to survive the pain of sexual abuse and the self-destructive nature of some of these. There is also a chapter on who abuses and why, and how opportunities to abuse are created.

The "double jeopardy" experienced by children with disability who are sexually abused is well outlined as are the issues which lead to children with disabilities being vulnerable to abuse. The survivors describe being abused by those who should have cared for them and being vulnerable due to being in institutional care. Poor body image and low self-esteem led to one survivor feeling she "deserved" to be abused, a poor sense of body can mean a poor sense of self.

Children with disabilities, like those who are not disabled, experience traumas during childhood. They have to deal with disability issues as well. Their predicaments and the problems they have accessing adequate supports are well highlighted in this publication.

Reading this would lead to a better understanding of disablism, stigma and the problems children with disability have with identity formation. The final chapter looks at the impact on the survivors of telling their stories in this context. For some, this involved a painful re-evaluation of their history that was sometimes also therapeutic.

The authors conclude by hoping that the survivors' accounts will empower disabled people to disclose their experiences of violation resulting in the creation of

a more humane society. There is no doubt that reading this will heighten awareness of these difficult and complex issues.

Holding on and hanging in

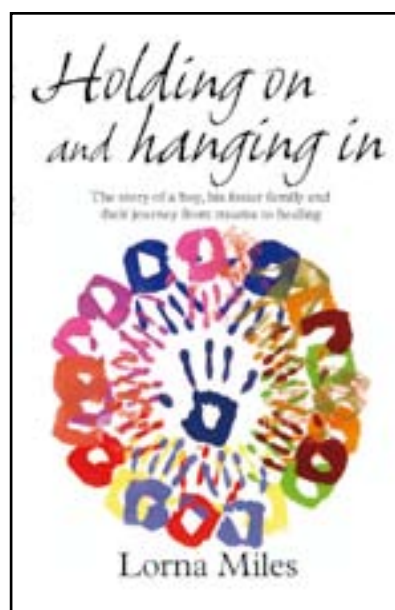
Lorna Miles

British Association for Adoption and Fostering, 2010

ISBN 978-1-90566-478-8, £7.95

Reviewed by Anne Black,
Independent Social Work
Consultant

The subtitle of this slim volume is "The story of a boy, his foster family and their journey from trauma to healing." Some readers might, like me, wonder if we needed another real life story of a child within the care system. I would say that if the story is of the quality of this one, the answer is definitely "yes".



It is a moving and compelling story of Wayne, a nine-year-old boy severely traumatised by his early neglectful and abusive early years and his journey to healing and trust. The writer captures the flashbacks Wayne has during that journey, his inability to see himself as worth bothering about and his need to destroy any good event for himself and everyone else.

Lorna Miles describes how she and her family tackled the problems faced in caring for such a disintegrated child who had had so little to give him any self-

esteem. She describes the events that nearly tore her family apart and the stresses that they endured. The key importance of having supportive workers and therapists around Wayne and for her is stressed throughout.

Being a team and working together and sharing the dramas and minor successes, as they happened, comes across as so important. The shared skills that the team brought to the family and to Wayne are also described. This underlined again for me the vital importance for everyone involved with children like Wayne to have people to whom they can go for help in understanding the roots of a child's distress.

The pressures of living with Wayne are graphically described. With a no holds barred approach, Lorna helpfully enters some territory that others have avoided. Respite care for Wayne was often hard to achieve and the impact of that on this family would be good ammunition for fostering agencies to press for better conditions for carers and an investment in regular high quality respite.

While the challenges Lorna and her family faced were enormous, the book also gives hope that little by little a child can begin to grow some self-worth. Yes, the costs to the family are high but it shows what a skilled foster family, well supported, can achieve. As Dan Hughes says, it "brings the theories, research, professional conferences and training to life" - hard to find a better recommendation than that!

It would be good for all senior managers responsible for looked after children to read this book and to gain a better understanding of just what fostering can provide and why it is so important for services to be sustained to support carers and children.

It is also a good read and I was quite disappointed when the train reached its destination and I had to stop. It shows that children's lives can be turned around and their futures made brighter. Readers would be well advised to take time to read this book.

Diary Dates

May 10

Is Scotland Protecting Its Children?
SASO Glasgow Branch Annual
Conference
Strathclyde University
Email: donna.redfern@scra.gsi.
gov.uk

May 12-14

Working Together - Shaping the
Future
ADSW Annual Conference and
Exhibition, Crieff Hydro Hotel
Email: linda@cosla.gov.uk

May 14

The Invisible Child: How Do
Children Cope with Domestic
Violence?
Association for Infant Mental
Health Annual Conference & AGM
St James Park Stadium
Conference Centre,
Newcastle-upon-Tyne
Email: info@aimh.org.uk

May 20

The future of practice and the
reform agenda
BASW UK Conference & AGM
Birmingham Town Hall
Free to BASW members
Email: agm@basw.co.uk

June 7-9

Building on Success - Reflections
and Visions
SIRCC National Conference
Macdonald Highland Resort,
Aviemore
Email: sirccvents@strath.ac.uk

June 10-15

2010 Joint World Conference on
Social Work and Social
Development: The Agenda
Hong Kong Convention and
Exhibition Centre, Hong Kong
Website: www.swsd2010.org

Coming soon...

October 5

Promoting Positive Practice
BASW Scotland MHO Forum 2010
Murrayfield Stadium, Edinburgh
Email: j.grant@basw.co.uk

BASW Committees

April 20

Staffing & Finance Sub
Committee, Birmingham
National Social Work Services
Forum

April 22

IRAP, Birmingham

April 26-27

Hilton Dawson in Scotland

April 28

Council, Birmingham

May 14-16

IFSW European Meeting, Malta

May 19

Rostrum Editorial Group

May 26

BASW Staff Meeting, Scotland

June 2

Scotland Committee

June 29

Staffing & Finance Sub
Committee, Birmingham

July 6

Induction Training for New
Council Members

BASW Scotland Office

Office Closed

April 19 - Spring Holiday

May 3 - May Day

May 17 - Victoria Day

Next Rostrum

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www.basw.co.uk/rostrum

Forth Valley Branch News

FIRSTLY, on behalf of the branch, congratulations to *Rostrum* on its 100th edition.

On 23 March, members will have the opportunity to meet Hilton Dawson, Chief Executive of BASW, and to consider the issues around the development of a College of Social Work. Letters are being sent to members about this.

Last year, one of the meetings that generated a lot of interest was on substance misuse and we promised to revisit it. On 22 June, there will be a meeting to consider the likely impact on parenting capacity. As usual, this will be held at the Dundas Resource Centre, Grangemouth - details to be sent out nearer the date.

Members also raised concerns about the effects of substance misuse among older people and people with mental health problems. We intend to focus on this at a study day in October. Our meetings are open to non-members and contribute to PRTL.

Kate Pryde, Branch Chair,
Email: kate.pryde@tiscali.co.uk

IAN JOHNSTON cordially invites his many friends from BASW to a barbecue to celebrate social work (and his birthday) at his home in Stanley, Perthshire from 7pm onwards on Saturday 26 June.

To RSVP and for directions please email Ian directly at: i.johnston@talk21.com





BASW Scotland Social Work Awards 2010

Social Worker of the Year

Residential Care Worker of the Year

Student Social Worker of the Year (Practice Award)

*Who do you think deserves to
collect an award at a celebration like this?*

Make your nomination today!



The winners will receive -

The BASW Scotland Social Work Award

A European Weekend Break

One year's free membership of BASW

Further information and nomination forms from:

Mrs Johan Grant, Administrative Officer,

BASW Scotland, 3rd Floor Princes House, 5 Shandwick Place, Edinburgh, EH1 3BG

Tel: 0131 221 9445 • Fax: 0131 221 9444 • Email: j.grant@basw.co.uk

Closing date: 30 November 2010