

Social Work

Ethos

Social workers aim to improve people's lives by helping with social and interpersonal difficulties, promoting human rights and wellbeing.

Social workers protect children and adults with support needs from harm.

Social workers recognise the bigger picture affecting people's lives and work for a more equal and just society where human rights are respected and protected.

Role

In Scotland Social Work is a generic qualification that covers numerous settings across Adults, Children and Families and Justice. Social workers work with adults, children and families and often specialise in a specific field of work – such as support for children and families, or working with adults with physical disability or mental health related needs. We help people make changes and access their rights as people and citizens. We often work with social networks, families or communities, as well as individuals, and help develop supportive relationships.

Social workers work with a number of people at any one time. This is often referred to as a caseload. Day-to-day work involves assessing people's needs, strengths and wishes, working with individuals and families directly to help them make changes and solve problems, organising support, making recommendations or referrals to other services and agencies, and keeping detailed records.

The problems social workers deal with are often rooted in social or emotional disadvantage, discrimination, poverty or trauma. Social workers recognise the bigger picture affecting people's lives and work for a more equal and just society where human rights are respected and protected.

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In all roles, social workers are trained and skilled to bring about change. They are also equipped with the necessary knowledge in using relevant legal powers to protect people's rights (and sometime balance the rights of everyone involved). This combination of skills, knowledge and values is unique to the social work profession.

Regulation

All Social Workers are required to be registered with the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC). This is the regulator for the social work, social care and children and young people workforce in Scotland. The SSSC's work means the people of Scotland can count on social work, social care and children and young people services being provided by a trusted, skilled, confident and valued workforce.