

Survey for Adult Social Workers

# What do we want you to do?

**Have your say in improving the future of Social Work for Adults in England**

Who should take part in this survey?

This survey is for

* Registered social workers
* Social work students
* All other practitioners working with or alongside social workers in England, in any settings, for example in health, criminal justice, housing or long term care.

Please use the survey to tell us what questions you have about Adult Social Work. We need your help to find out what the priorities are for future research in Adult Social Work in England.

Please tell your colleagues about the survey so they can complete it too.

The survey should take around 10 minutes to complete.

Research could make a real difference to the lives of people who use adult social work services. Improving our knowledge of which social work interventions work best, and which lead to the best outcomes for people, is vital.

There is significant research and evidence around *social care*, but there is very little research that looks specifically at the role and effectiveness of social work and social work practice in improving outcomes for people.

There is a separate survey for adults with lived experience of social work, their family members and informal carers (including young carers). You can find this at [www.bit.ly/ASWresearch](http://www.bit.ly/ASWresearch).

Please circulate that survey to anyone you know who uses adult social work services in England and encourage them to complete it.

Why is this survey important?

This survey will help us to find out what the issues and gaps are in our understanding of social work with adults. A separate survey is consulting people who use adult social work services and their carers and you can see this at [www.bit.ly/ASWresearch](http://www.bit.ly/ASWresearch).

It will tell us the areas where further research evidence on the role and impact of social work would help us to work with people who need care and support, including people with mental health conditions, older people and people with learning disabilities.

Social workers provide vital services to children, adults, families and communities. Social workers help people find solutions to social and practical problems, access care and support, be safe from harm or neglect, exercise their human rights and get on with the lives they want to lead as much as possible. For social workers working with adults, this involves working with people, families and communities across a wide range of fields of practice, such as mental health, physical and learning disabilities, child protection, child and family support, conditions of older age, end of life care and physical illnesses.

We are using a [James Lind Alliance](http://www.jla.nihr.ac.uk/) Priority Setting Partnership (PSP) process to identify the research priorities.

This is an opportunity to make researchers aware of the issues that matter to you. The PSP will focus on adult social work *interventions*, including assessment, practice, care and support, in England. It will not address research questions around wider adult social care or housing.

The Chief Social Worker for Adults in the Department of Health, Lyn Romeo, initiated this priority setting process.

Do I have to write a research question?

No. The most important thing is to draw on your own professional experience of social work for adults. Write as much or as little as you like. It is enough to write a short sentence about something that is important to you. We will treat all answers confidentially. We will not share your personal details with anyone and no one will know it is you who has sent in the questions.

What happens next?

We will list all of the questions that you send us and check if currently available research answers them fully or not. All questions that have not been answered by research will go into a prioritisation process. By the end of the process, those who use and provide adult social work services will have jointly agreed the research priorities. We will publish the list at [www.jla.nihr.ac.uk](http://www.jla.nihr.ac.uk) in 2018.

# Your questions

Please think about what you would like research to find out about practice and interventions in adult social work.

You may have questions about what is the most effective way of working with people or assessing need. You may have questions about what improves wellbeing.

You may also have questions about the context within which social work takes place, such as questions related to the legal framework surrounding social work, social workers’ employment, and the knowledge and skills that social workers need (though we are not covering qualifying training).

You may also have questions about how social workers meet the expectations of people who use services, within the limited resources available. We are open to a broad range of questions related to social work with adults.

We are not looking for questions about social work with children and families, social work education or training, wider adult social care, housing or general NHS healthcare.

When you answer the questions, please write as much or as little as you like. All answers are anonymous. By taking part in this survey, you are agreeing that we can use and may publish some of your questions but NO ONE WILL KNOW THAT IT IS YOU WHO HAS ASKED THESE QUESTIONS. If you run out of space please continue on a separate sheet.

1. What question(s) do you want research to address in relation to how adult social work helps promote people’s wellbeing?

1. What question(s) do you want research to address in relation to how adult social work impacts on people’s safety?

1. What question(s) do you want research to address in relation to how adult social workers make decisions about how to support people?

1. What question(s) do you want research to address in relation to how social workers interact with adults, carers, families, communities and people from other agencies and organisations?

1. Do you have any other questions about the effectiveness of adult social work that you would like research to address?

# Some questions about you

We would like to know a little about you, to help us make sure that we hear from a wide range of people.

These answers are confidential and no individual will be identified when we present the results.

Any personal information that you supply will only be used in conjunction with the Adult Social Work Priority Setting Partnership.

Which of the following best describes you? (Please tick one answer) \*Required

□ A frontline registered practitioner who provides adult social work services

□ A manager or supervisor of adult social work services

□ A social work student

□ A volunteer

□ A children’s social worker

□ A social work educator

□ Other practitioner (please describe below)

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**Where do you usually work? (Please tick one answer)**

□North East England

□ North West England

□Yorkshire and Humber  
□East Midlands

□West Midlands

□East of England

□London

□South East of England

□South West of England

□I have a national remit

□Other (please describe below)

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**Do you work or volunteer in one of the following settings? (Please tick one answer)**

□ Voluntary/not for profit sector

□ Local authority

□ NHS

□ Other (please describe below)

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**Are you? (Please tick one box)**

□ Employed?

□ Self-employed/independent

□ A volunteer

□ A student

□ Other (please describe below)

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Which would you say are your main client groups/areas of expertise? (Please tick all that apply)

□ Adult services

□ Advocacy

□ Asylum issues

□ Bereavement

□ CAMHS

□ Care standards

□ Children and families

□ Counselling

□ Criminal justice

□ Dementia

□ Direct payments

□ Disabilities – learning

□ Disabilities – physical

□ Ethics

□ Health related

□ Human rights

□ Immigration

□ Learning, development and training

□ Mental capacity

□ Mental health

□ Older people

□ Palliative care

□ Poverty and social justice

□ Sensory impairment

□ Transition from child to adult services

□ Best interest assessor

□ Other (please describe below)

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**Which best describes your gender? (Please tick one box)**

□ Male

□ Female

□ I prefer to use my own term

□ I prefer not to say

**Which best describes your ethnic group? (Please tick one box)**

□ White

□ Mixed/multiple ethnic groups

□ Asian/Asian British

□ Black/African/Caribbean/Black British

□ Other ethnic group

□ Prefer not to say

# Would you like to hear more from us?

Would you like to hear about the progress of this project and the results? \*Required

□ Yes

□ No

# How to contact you

If you have agreed above that you would like to hear more about the progress of this project and the results, please write your contact details below so that we can give you more information occasionally throughout the project and when we finish.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Post address if you would prefer us to contact you by post:

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# How we will keep your information safe

By taking part in this survey you are agreeing to us publishing your questions anonymously. Your personal information (for example your gender, ethic group or your address if you have given it) is held and used in compliance with the Data Protection Act. Any personal information that you give us will only be used in relation to this project.

We will not pass your details to any third party and you can ask us to remove your details from our database at any time.

Do you agree to your personal information (for example your gender, ethnic group or your address if you have given it) being used in the way we have described above? \*Required

□ Yes

□ No

**Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. When you have finished please post it to (you won’t need a stamp):**

Caroline Whiting

James Lind Alliance

NETSCC

Alpha House

FREEPOST RTHT-TBHY-ZJJR

Highfield

Southampton SO16 7NS

**Please help us by passing details of the survey and the project website to any of your colleagues who might be interested.**

There is a similar survey aimed at people who use adult social work services and their families and carers. You can see this at [www.bit.ly/ASWresearch](http://www.bit.ly/ASWresearch).

For any further information about this Priority Setting Partnership, please see [www.bit.ly/ASWresearch](http://www.bit.ly/ASWresearch), call 023 80 595489 or email [jla@southampton.ac.uk](mailto:jla@southampton.ac.uk)