



Department
of Health



Department
for Education

From:

Lyn Romeo, Chief Social Worker for Adults

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Dear Colleague,

We would like to ask you to share news of the [social work teaching partnerships expansion](#) with your members, partners and other key contacts.

You may have seen the [Secretary of State for Education's 3 April announcement](#) about significant investment in new programmes to revolutionise support for the most vulnerable children and families across the country. Her announcement included a new invitation for social work teaching partnerships to submit bold and innovative funding proposals on improving standards in social work education, training and practice development for all social workers.

Shadowing a similar funding application process to 2015, we continue to support an approach where teaching partnerships match universities with councils to deliver gold-standard training for social workers – raising standards and supporting councils in recruiting and retaining the best social workers and giving them greater control over the hiring of frontline professionals.

Government commitment to the TP programme is strong. Alistair Burt, Minister for Community and Social Care at the Department of Health and Edward Timpson Minister of State for Children and Families at the Department for Education both believe expansion of teaching partnerships will support improving the quantity and quality of practice placements. They also underline the importance of good quality supervision for students and qualified staff.

Existing partnerships are already creating the right environments for excellent practice and innovation to flourish. We expect them to exercise high standards in training and support for professional practice and to exemplify what can be done as we move towards the establishment of a new regulator for the social work profession. Our expansion plans look to cement important collaborations between universities and councils to ensure a steady stream of high calibre social workers to the frontline, working with children, families and vulnerable adults.

Teaching partnerships offer a great opportunity for working together to invest in the highest standards of social work education and practice. They provide the chance to ensure that we have more good placements available for students, more support for practice educators and more input from practising social workers and people with lived experience in educating social work students. In turn, this will help to create and sustain a learning culture for social workers and organisations, supporting a profession that can practise well in supporting individuals, families and communities to have better lives.

We recognise there has been much recent debate about the future of Universities in the delivery of qualification programmes, but the expansion of the TP programme marks a long term commitment to academic rigour and valued research.

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Making sure practice is at the heart of all that we do is the key focus of this Government's social care reform strategy. Teaching partnerships form a very important part of this. We all have a responsibility to make sure that children, families and vulnerable adults receive the help and protection they need.

The application window for the expansion round opened on 11 April and closes 23 May 2016. We look forward to receiving innovative proposals. Further information can be found [here](#).

Yours sincerely,

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Chief Social Worker for Children and Families

Lyn Romeo
Chief Social Worker for Adults