General Social Care Council

Social work reform: towards implementation

Securing quality in the service

Penny Thompson

Chief Executive, GSCC

16 February 2012

General Social Care Council

Securing quality in the service

- Professional/service regulation
- Social work reform agenda
- Evidence informed policy
- Sector led improvement
- College of SW

A quality social work profession

General Social Care Council

The GSCC – a reminder

- Since 2003 we have been the professional regulator for social work in England. We:
  - Hold and maintain the social care register
  - Approve, monitor and inspect social work training
  - Own the codes of practice for social workers
  - Hold to account social workers who do not meet the code of practice
  - Regulate post-qualifying training
  - Have 87,000 social workers and 18,000 social work students on our register

General Social Care Council

The transfer

- Report of the Arms-length Bodies Review (2010):
  - "we intend to abolish the General Social Care Council and move the regulation of social workers … to the Health Professions Council"
- Changes in the Health and Social Care Bill
- The transfer takes place on 31 July 2012
- The HPC will adopt a new name:
  - The Health and Care Professions Council
  - "regulating health, psychological and social work professions"

General Social Care Council

Summary

GSCC – single profession regulator	HPC – multi profession regulator
Registers students	Consulting on student reg.
Renewal every three years - £30 annual fee (DH funded)	Renewal every two years - £76 annual fee + scrutiny (independent)
Code of practice	Standards of Proficiency; Performance, Conduct & Ethics
Misconduct	Fitness to practise
PRTL – 15days, 90hrs	CPD – outcomes
Service users and inspectors to inspect courses	'Visitors' from profession inspect
Regulates PQ courses	The College will endorse PQ. HPC will regulate Approved Mental Health Professionals

General Social Care Council

Social work reform

SWRB product	Destination
Admissions and selection guidance	College
Practice learning guidance	College
Principles for good partnership working	College
CPD framework	College
Professional Capabilities Framework	College
Curriculum framework	College
practice educator framework	College

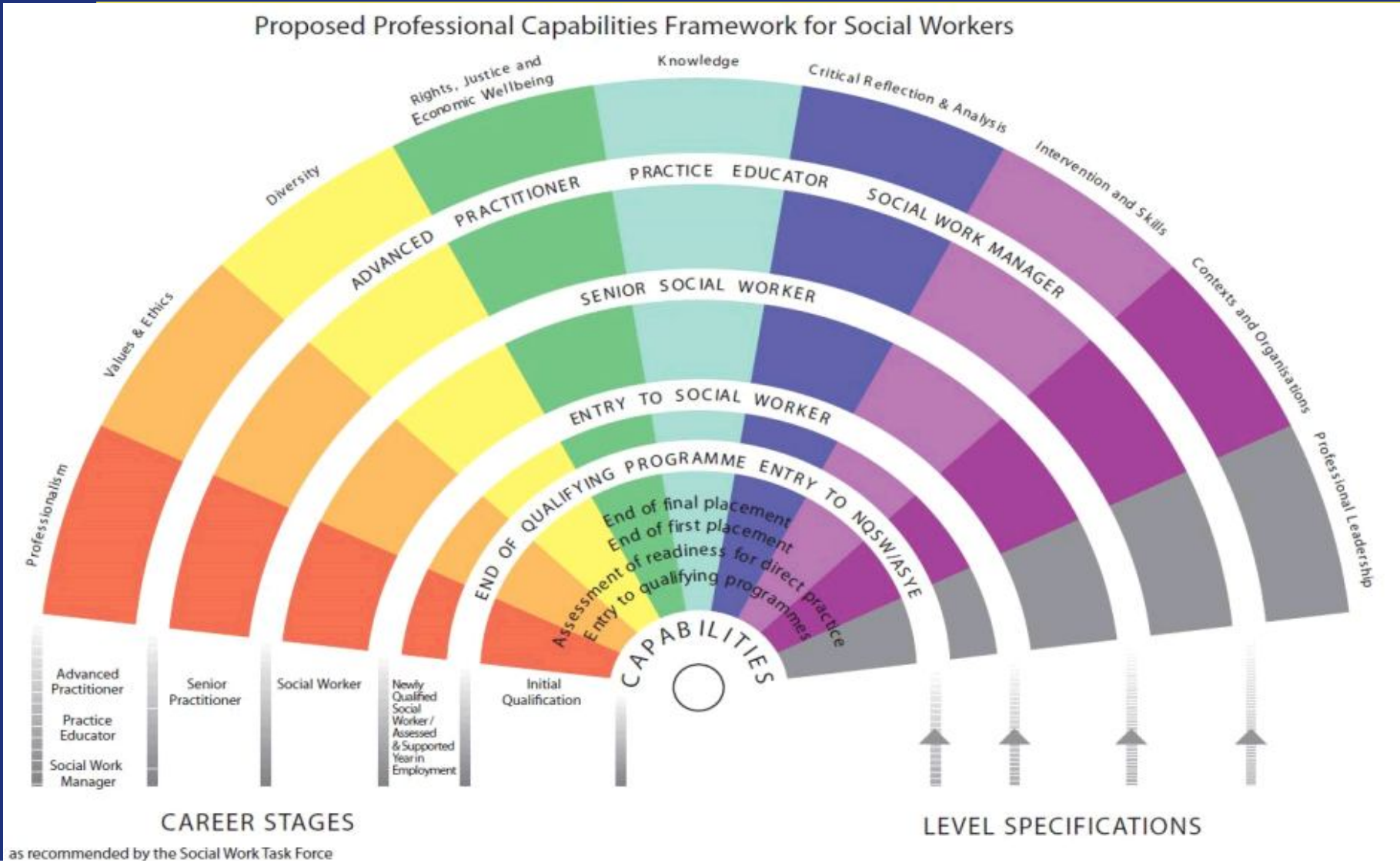
General Social Care Council

Social work reform

SWRB product	Destination
Assessed and Supported Year in Employment	TBC
Career framework	TBC
Standards for employers and supervision framework	Local Government Group
Supply and demand model	Centre for Workforce Intelligence

General Social Care Council

Professional Capabilities Framework



General Social Care Council

Evidence informed policy

Implications of Munro:

"to create the conditions that **enable professionals to make the best judgments** about the help to give to children, young people and families. This involves moving from a system that has become over-bureaucratised and focused on compliance to one that **values and develops professional expertise**"

General Social Care Council

Evidence informed policy

- Munro means social workers will have less guidance and processes to follow:
  - Reduction in regulation and removal of national framework, processes and forms
- Ofsted - ‘High expectations, high support and high challenge’/ recent social care lecture
- Social Work Practice pilots for adult services
- Even more important that social workers have:
  - Good judgement
  - Confidence in ability
  - Right skills and knowledge
- Initial and continuing training is more important than ever

General Social Care Council

Evidence informed policy

- GSCC will ensure learning and legacy for the sector:
  - Professional Boundaries
  - Regulating Social Work
  - Regulating Social Work Education
  - Social Work Placements
  - Involving Service Users

General Social Care Council

Sector led improvement

- Sector led improvements
  - Local government children's improvement board
  - *"Sector-led improvement and support in children's services... there is strong support across the sector for a system that is led by the sector, for the sector."*
  - Partnership of local authorities and sector bodies

General Social Care Council

The new landscape

hpc health professions council

THE COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK

Public Protection

- Independent regulator
- Sets and requires minimum standards of practice
- Sets minimum standards of education
- Protecting public from poor practice and conduct
- Compulsory registration

Strong profession

Championing social work

- Champion of best practice and high standards
- Representing the profession to media and public
- Driver of excellence
- Endorser of post-qualifying courses
- Voluntary membership

General
Social Care
Council

“A stronger social work profession is in our hands!”

General Social Care Council

Find out more

- Subscribe to our quarterly e-newsletter: www.socialworkconnections.org.uk
- Get our e-bulletins for employers and HEIs www.gscc.org.uk
- Follow us on:
  - Twitter: @TheGSCC
  - Facebook: General Social Care Council
- Join GSCC online community forums to discuss these and other issues
- HPC website: www.hpc-uk.org
- College website: www.collegeofsocialwork.org

General
Social Care
Council

Thank you
Questions?