TRADITIONAL

COMMUNITY SOCIAL WORK

Reactive: service provided when the situation has deteriorated and the user's networks are unable to cope. Preventative/pro-active: social work intervenes before a service is referred for statutory intervention.

The Future of Social

and bure Works and remote location - monopoles of by overwhelming damands of individuals within a community.

work practice determined by the living conditions, environmental and social situations of community members.

Remembering thePurpose of Social Work as a

Profession

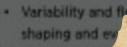
the individual is the only target of intervent Colin Turbetted on their internal problems and the degree of pathology.

Centred on social network: the target of intervention is the social network, including the person seeking a service.

Assessment centres on the distribution of responsibility and capacities to adapt.

CHANGES REQUIRE

- Reactive responses are gradually replaces interventions
- Gradual reduction of case approach by individual soc
- Close interaction with the locommunity



- Individuct
 and not con
 to service p
- Informal netw importance
- · Professional
- Social direct supporting these respectively.
- The social worker assessing the well experienced by proto support them also elicit support from the potentially seek a service.



Social Work (Scotland)
Act 1968

CHAPTER 49

1968 Act s12 — "....the promotion of social welfare"

"Social workers should be attentive to events and developments within the communities they serve, anticipating needs that are likely to arise... The workload of local authority social work teams should be planned to include activity designed to explore and monitor situations and developments within communities they serve with a view to anticipating need and planning ahead for the provision to meet it." and "Social workers should be attentive to the plans and activities of agencies – their own and any others... it might involve, for example, direct negotiation, enabling people in the community to exercise direct influence, and/or referring information to senior management level for action."

Social Work Services Group, 1968

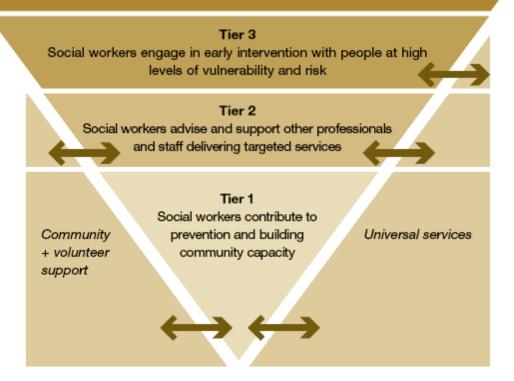


What happened to Social Work in Scotland?

- 1970s expansion into communities
- 1980s social work on the defensive
- 1990s intrusion of care management and marketisation with a brokerage role; increasing specialisation with a focus on risk; practice moves downstream and access to services determined by eligibility criteria. Local Government reorganisation
- 2000s austerity
- 2010s focus on "lived experience" and (again!) on integration with health

Tier 4

Social workers work directly with people alongside their families and carers where there are complex, unpredictable, longer term needs and risks.



"Changing Lives" 2005

The Impact of Broken Systems on Social Work

- Obsession with risk
- Centralised, siloed and inaccessible service delivery models
- Disconnects between education, policy and practice – driven by continued budgetary concerns
- Disillusioned and burned out staff (see: Setting the Bar report)
- The farming out of responsibility to promote social welfare





What Social Workers Have the Skills to Do

Work with people – not against them – relationship based social work – with a focus on prevention rather than reactive response to crisis

- Respect and understanding agreement on goals
- Honesty and acknowledgement of power imbalances
- Emphasis on strengths rather than deficits
- Resilience building rather than risk surveillance
- Celebrating creativity and artistry

Taking Social Work Back to Communities

Characteristics of Community Social Work

- CSW differs from broad Community Development although it may include some of its strategies and techniques
- It rests on "upstream" approaches that aim to tackle common problems and their individual manifestations, through early identification and mutually identified solution if we can stop people falling in the river in the first place they will not need to be rescued from drowning (Smale et al 2000)
- It might involve groupwork, an activity focus and/or social action, but also incorporates creative and imaginative social work interventions e.g. family group conferencing, restorative justice, mentoring, alleviation of social isolation and loneliness – and individual support
- It is rooted in the community it aims to serve and draws strength and purpose from its networks, activists and ordinary members
- It is a bottom up activity and cannot be prescribed from outside or above – but it does require support from policy makers, senior managers and it needs inspired leaders at local level





Recovery Plan!

Making the transition from individualised reactive interventions to preventative, relationship-based, community orientated support:

- Statutory and public protection responsibilities have to be undertaken but we need to bring a focus on preventative social work back into the mainstream
- This will release social work's potential to help mend broken communities as well as support their individual victims
- Build from the bottom alongside community members

Time for Community Social Work!