



SECOND EDITION

SOCIAL WORK

An introduction to contemporary practice



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Endorsements for the first edition:

'This is a ground breaking, exciting new textbook for students of social work and their teachers . . . The authors have achieved a beautifully written, thorough exploration of contemporary social work practice . . . As a social worker educator working with students across the spectrum, from qualifying to professional doctorate level, I wholeheartedly welcome this invigorating new social work text. I have no doubt that this completed work represents a crucial milestone in social work education . . . The level is suitable for qualifying courses at undergraduate and Master's level and for those registered for post qualifying social work awards.'

Clare Parkinson, Senior Lecturer in Social Work, University of East London

'This is an ambitious and very impressive book which will make a valuable and significant contribution. Kate Wilson and her colleagues have produced an exhaustive introduction for any student studying social work and preparing to become a social worker. However, it is more than this, in that we are provided with a detailed and serious book which is explicitly located in an increasingly important orientation – relationship-based reflective approaches. This is not simply an introductory summary and tour of the field, but provides students with a clear framework and foundation for locating their practice through the rest of their studies, future training and professional careers.'

Nigel Parton, NSPCC Professor in Applied Childhood Studies, University of Huddersfield

'I am enthusiastic about this book and very much welcome its appearance. Relationship-based social work, if not exactly out-of-fashion, has been greatly undervalued in recent years. These authors put relationships at "the heart" of practice and make a compelling case for a relationship-based approach to social work, an approach that includes developing reflective practice. The approach is then applied with great skill and expertise to the full range of social work's interests and concerns – values, assessment, communication, planning, intervention, and work with children, families, disabled children and adults, adults with mental health problems, and vulnerable older people. A key text, an excellent read, and highly recommended.'

Professor David Howe, University of East Anglia, Norwich

'Recent concerns about risk and accountability in social work have resulted in increasingly managerial and mechanistic practice, dominated by a proliferation of targets, tick-boxes, and assessment frameworks. In the process, the relationship between service-user and social worker has been devalued and marginalised. This book, written by a team of leading social work academics, therefore comes as a breath of fresh air – by placing relationships once more at the heart of social work practice, it provides a much-needed antidote to such reductionist trends whilst also meeting the needs of students in the context of modern social work education.'

Professor Adrian James, Department of Sociological Studies, University of Sheffield

'I found this text interesting and user friendly. It clearly explains the theoretical context and usefully links it to practice in a way that will enable students and newly qualified social workers to integrate theory and research to their own practice. The use of case studies and thought provokers engages the reader and helps make the topic relevant to their own experience. I will certainly use this text with social work students on placement and newly qualified social workers.'

Dawn Maxwell, Children's Services and Learning Directorate, Southampton City Council

'*Social Work: An Introduction to Contemporary Practice* is an important and immediately useful text for social work practitioners and learners at both pre and post qualifying stages. This book provides clear explanation and illustration of a comprehensive range of social work themes and areas of practice and is informed by a wealth of contemporary social work research and literature. Any social work learner with a limited book budget should view this text as an extremely worthwhile investment.'

Teresa de Villiers, Social Work Tutor, Cardiff University

'This is a useful introductory text which provides opportunity for beginning social work students to consider a range of issues that have influenced, and impact, on contemporary professional practice.'

Judy Kerr, Teaching Fellow in Social Work, University of Stirling

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