

**ADCS summary briefing on the *Independent review of social work regulation*, closes  
Wednesday 26 November**

The first [independent review](#) of the operations of Social Work England (SWE) is being led by Dame Annie Hudson, see [terms of reference](#) here. She is expected to report in spring 2026.

A [call for evidence](#) was launched on Wednesday 5 November aimed at helping government to ensure the registration and regulation of the social work profession is fit for purpose.

The call for evidence is aimed at student, practicing and retired social workers, training providers, employers, current and previous service users of all ages and wider members of the public.

A core set of questions, which are tailored to each of these audiences, are included in the consultation document.

**Training providers** are asked whether SWE's [education and training standards](#) support them to prepare students and trainees for the job of a social worker? And, to what extent the Education Quality Assurance process supports the delivery of high-quality social work education and training.

**Student or trainee social workers** are asked about their chosen qualification route and whether their education / training is giving them a good understanding of the role they will take on in the workplace? And, whether it is giving them the skills to work directly with children, adults and families and to do the job effectively?

They are also asked about their awareness of SWE, and their confidence in it as a regulator.

**Registered social workers / social work managers / retired social workers** are asked about their area of practice, qualification route and whether their education / training gave them a good understanding of the role they took on in the workplace. And, whether it gave them the skills to work directly with children, adults and families and to do the job effectively?

They are also asked about their awareness of SWE, and their confidence in it as a regulator.

Registration experiences are sought; social workers are asked if the registration process was simple and whether it is proportionate to the level of trust this offers the public?

They are asked if the process for CPD recording is straightforward and if the process of recording CPD supports both the practitioner, and their manager, to undertake it?

Finally, social workers are asked about their awareness of the [professional standards for social workers](#).

**Employers / bodies representing employers** are asked whether the different qualifying routes for social workers give them a good understanding of the role? And, whether this is giving them the skills to work directly with children, adults and families and to do the job effectively? Views on the best qualifying routes are sought, as are views on the registration process (simplicity, proportionality) for home qualified as well as internationally qualified social workers.

On re-registration, again views on the simplicity and proportionality of this process are sought.

Finally, there is an ask about the value of the CPD record to both the social worker and their manager.

**Children, care service experienced people and members of the general public** are asked about their experiences of having, or working with, social workers, their confidence in social workers, awareness of SWE and any prior involvement in fitness to practice processes.

**Children and young people** are specifically asked how safe they feel (or felt) in talking to their social worker, what they liked or disliked about how their social worker worked with them, anything they'd like to change and whether they'd ever made a complaint to SWE. Plus, one message they'd like to share with SWE about social work.

On **professional standards**, social workers are asked whether they help them to understand the knowledge, skills and behaviours needed to practice, whether the standards help support a high level of care and service and whether they support professional development and help to identify areas for improvement and growth.

On the **fitness to practice**, views of social workers about whether the process was transparent and easy to understand, whether SWE's communications during the process were regular, clear and helpful and if the process was timely and the outcome was fair.

### **Other questions**

Cohorts of respondents are asked about their views on the responsibilities of SWE by selecting as many options as apply from the list, below:

- To set professional standards for social workers
- To keep a register of qualified social workers
- To require social workers to keep their skills and knowledge up to date
- To set and assess the standards for the initial training and education for social workers
- To investigate concerns raised about social workers
- To be the voice of social workers
- To campaign on issues important to social work
- To help recruit new social workers
- None of these
- Don't know.

All respondents are asked whether SWE delivering its statutory objectives to:

- Protect, promote and maintain the health, safety and wellbeing of the public
- Promote and maintain public confidence in social workers in England
- Promote and maintain proper professional standards for social workers in England

And finally, there is an ask about whether SWE is delivering on its responsibilities under the *Equalities Act 2010*?