

# NAMED SOCIAL WORKER

WHAT IS A  
GOOD  
SOCIAL WORKER?



# What is Named Social Worker?



- ‘Providing a dedicated caseworker, who has an on-going responsibility for someone’s support, means the worker can be the primary point of contact for care and treatment, and they can use their professional voice to challenge decisions and advocate on someone’s behalf with all of the agencies and organisations providing support.’ (SCIE)
- What is good social work?
- We asked self advocates what they thought a named social worker should look like.

# Who did we work with?



- Young people in transition
- People living in the community at risk at a hospital admission
- People in assessment and treatment units



# Why is this important to us?



- There are not enough options for young people and these are not explained early enough to families
- There is often an assumption that people need support and sometimes lots of it
- Family members tell us that they are not listened to, their expertise is not valued and their views are ignored
- Professionals respond to crisis with the most restrictive options often admission from an acute general hospital bed into a medium secure unit
- The evidence tells us that hospital admissions don't work
- The care and treatment offered to people is at best unclear, and at worst directly compromises people's dignity
- Discharge planning is confused and often involves movement from one unit to another type of unit rather than a genuine plan to get people home

# CHANGE



- no water
- no gas
- no electricity
- staff changes

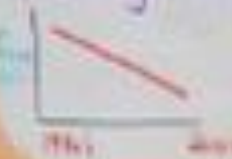
## BUT

Don't do things that  
waste time



# WE WANT LIFE!

### Valuing People



Not good enough

work with one for  
work together



## History - the Story to here

Not a diagnosis of illness  
Some problems the same as everyone else

- jobs
- home
- family
- talking

# What did we find?

- People really struggle to understand the legislation
- People who say they disagree with professionals appear to be more likely to be subject to legal processes and restrictions
- People are labelled and this is hard to leave behind
- Language used by professionals is de-humanising, confusing and oppressive
- People are described as being risky or complex – this isn't true when we meet the person
- Professionals hold a lot of power and have different priorities to those of the person
- Professionals have low expectations of people with a learning disability
- People want to be listened to and have friends, family and be happy like anyone else

# What do we think this means?

- Social work is vital- working with people to understand what is important to them
- Social work approaches- human rights based practice, values, citizenship and social models enable us to do this
- Challenge to existing structures and assumptions- a medical model isn't the only one
- The importance of legal literacy in social work
- Social work isn't about protecting people- people are experts in their own lives
- Social workers need to challenge, advocate and ensure the person is always at the centre



**MCA - A-Z**

H is for Happiness  
+  
Human Rights