



Gofal Cymdeithasol **Cymru**
Social Care **Wales**

Social Work Week 2023

Celebrating the hard work and dedication of social workers

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To help us celebrate Social Work Week, we're sharing videos from frontline social workers, leaders, social work students, people receiving care and support, and politicians, all giving their perspective on social work.

Learn about the importance of social workers

A message from Sue Evans, our Chief Executive

[View transcript](#)

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:03,099

Today, I'm celebrating social workers

2

00:00:03,433 --> 00:00:06,866

doing incredible work all across Wales.

3

00:00:07,632 --> 00:00:10,399

21 March is World

4

00:00:10,399 --> 00:00:14,898

Social Work Day, but at Social Care Wales,

we're using in the whole week

5

00:00:15,132 --> 00:00:17,565

to celebrate the great work being done.

6

00:00:18,365 --> 00:00:21,331

Each day this week we'll have videos

7

00:00:21,598 --> 00:00:25,864

from a number of people,

including politicians, practitioners

8

00:00:26,264 --> 00:00:29,664

and partners,

really talking about their own

9

00:00:29,664 --> 00:00:33,397

thoughts and perspectives

on the value of social work today.

10

00:00:33,564 --> 00:00:37,197

My first experience of social work
was when my sister

11

00:00:37,197 --> 00:00:39,763

in law qualified in the 1970s.

12

00:00:40,363 --> 00:00:44,230

She was helping young children
who were finding it difficult

13

00:00:44,230 --> 00:00:50,229

to stay in school. And using a range
of community therapeutic methods

14

00:00:50,263 --> 00:00:53,762

she enabled those children
to restart their education

15

00:00:53,996 --> 00:00:56,029

and get back onto the right track.

16

00:00:56,562 --> 00:01:00,695

And then in the 1980s,

my youngest sister qualified in Scotland,

17

00:01:01,095 --> 00:01:03,562

and she was helping families stay together

18

00:01:03,562 --> 00:01:07,595

despite the challenges of substance

misuse and mental health.

19

00:01:08,561 --> 00:01:08,995

Then I

20

00:01:08,995 --> 00:01:12,794

started working in the public sector

in Wales in the 1990s,

21

00:01:13,128 --> 00:01:16,994

so I became very familiar

with the work of social workers in Wales

22

00:01:17,394 --> 00:01:20,794

and what I can see from my experience is our

23

00:01:20,794 --> 00:01:24,727

social workers do an amazing job

in connecting up

24

00:01:25,060 --> 00:01:28,593

with housing colleagues,

with schools, with NHS

25

00:01:28,660 --> 00:01:33,293

and third sector organisations

to really wrap around care and support

26

00:01:33,293 --> 00:01:36,993

to people who may be vulnerable

at certain points in their lives.

27

00:01:37,193 --> 00:01:41,959

So I'd like to celebrate the great work

social workers are doing right

28

00:01:41,959 --> 00:01:47,325

across Wales and ask you to

look at those videos, share those videos

29

00:01:47,492 --> 00:01:51,225

so that we can spread the message

and give our thanks to

30

00:01:51,225 --> 00:01:54,525

those people who are

doing great work every day.

Thomas tells us how social workers have helped him

[View transcript](#)

1

00:00:00,400 --> 00:00:03,833

Hi. My name's Thomas.

2

00:00:03,833 --> 00:00:06,200

I've had social workers all my life

3

00:00:06,700 --> 00:00:09,700

supporting me, filling in forms,

4

00:00:09,700 --> 00:00:13,400

helping me to find a better place

where I'm living.

5

00:00:13,500 --> 00:00:15,933

Where I was in before

it wasn't suitable for me.

6

00:00:15,966 --> 00:00:18,866

A social worker helped me

to where I'm living now.

7

00:00:18,866 --> 00:00:22,700

A social worker helped me

to find a room on the ground floor.

8

00:00:22,933 --> 00:00:27,066

My social worker helps me

to fill in forms and handling my money.

9

00:00:27,200 --> 00:00:29,700

My social worker has helped me to go on a cruise.

10

00:00:29,700 --> 00:00:31,533

It's good for me to have a social worker

11

00:00:31,533 --> 00:00:34,200

and it's good to do the things that I like.

12

00:00:34,233 --> 00:00:37,700

They've helped me to get a job and

socialising with my friends.

13

00:00:37,700 --> 00:00:40,733

Thank you for everything all the

social workers, all they do.

A message of thanks from the Deputy Minister

[View transcript](#)

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:01,368

Hello everyone.

2

00:00:01,400 --> 00:00:03,320

I'm very happy to celebrate

3

00:00:03,320 --> 00:00:08,640

World Social Work Day 2023

4

00:00:08,640 --> 00:00:10,240

with you all.

5

00:00:10,920 --> 00:00:14,040

Social Work Day provides a welcome opportunity

6

00:00:14,200 --> 00:00:17,400

to celebrate the incredible work you do.

7

00:00:17,840 --> 00:00:19,960

It's a celebration of your achievements

8

00:00:20,600 --> 00:00:24,120

and an opportunity

to reflect on the amazing work done

9

00:00:24,120 --> 00:00:27,040

each and every day by dedicated,

10

00:00:27,040 --> 00:00:29,880

hardworking social workers.

11

00:00:29,880 --> 00:00:32,960

Social work can be an immensely rewarding

12

00:00:32,960 --> 00:00:37,160

and fulfilling role at the front line

in delivering

13

00:00:37,160 --> 00:00:40,880

crucial help to vulnerable people,
families and communities.

14

00:00:41,200 --> 00:00:46,240

You support others through crises
and enable positive change

15

00:00:46,600 --> 00:00:52,600

in their lives. You play a vital role
in supporting our communities in Wales.

16

00:00:52,720 --> 00:00:55,440

Now, being a social worker can be tough.

17

00:00:56,920 --> 00:01:00,600

Every day, you face difficult situations

18

00:01:00,880 --> 00:01:03,680

and make difficult decisions

19

00:01:04,560 --> 00:01:06,840

which don't always lead to

20

00:01:06,840 --> 00:01:12,320

what you want for the people you support.

21

00:01:12,360 --> 00:01:17,320

Your work requires

professionalism, strength and resilience

22

00:01:17,320 --> 00:01:22,160

that few others outside health and social care are asked to show.

23

00:01:23,280 --> 00:01:25,400

As we continue our recovery

24

00:01:25,400 --> 00:01:28,040

from the crushing impacts of the pandemic,

25

00:01:28,560 --> 00:01:32,480

we face the terrible consequences

that the war in Ukraine

26

00:01:32,640 --> 00:01:36,280

and the cost of living crisis

are having on communities and

27

00:01:36,280 --> 00:01:38,440

individuals across Wales.

28

00:01:39,200 --> 00:01:41,400

These are global challenges

29

00:01:41,400 --> 00:01:44,920

affecting local communities

and individuals,

30

00:01:45,680 --> 00:01:48,040

and it is you who deliver the help

31

00:01:48,040 --> 00:01:50,240

and support they need.

32

00:01:51,360 --> 00:01:53,160

You support the vulnerable.

33

00:01:53,160 --> 00:01:55,160

You strengthen communities.

34

00:01:55,160 --> 00:01:57,640

You improve people's lives.

35

00:01:57,640 --> 00:02:00,040

You make a difference.

36

00:02:00,040 --> 00:02:01,960

Thank you

37

00:02:01,960 --> 00:02:04,480

on behalf of everyone who

benefits

38

00:02:04,480 --> 00:02:09,840

from your empathy and your kind and professional work.

39

00:02:09,840 --> 00:02:11,640

Best wishes to you

40

00:02:11,640 --> 00:02:15,034

on World Social Work Day.

41

00:02:15,280 --> 00:02:16,600

Thank you very much.

Members of the Senedd say thank you

[View transcript](#)

1

00:00:00,200 --> 00:00:02,869

Today

is the National Day for Social Workers.

2

00:00:03,536 --> 00:00:08,441

I know having been a social worker
for 27 years, how hard you all work.

3

00:00:08,942 --> 00:00:10,477

And we do thank you.

4

00:00:10,477 --> 00:00:13,613

We thank you for your dedication
and commitment to social work

5

00:00:13,913 --> 00:00:15,882

wherever you are and whatever you do.

6

00:00:16,416 --> 00:00:16,950

Thank you.

7

00:00:16,950 --> 00:00:18,018

Diolch yn fawr iawn.

8

00:00:18,418 --> 00:00:19,019

Thank you very much

9

00:00:19,019 --> 00:00:20,553

to social workers

10

00:00:20,553 --> 00:00:21,821

across Wales.

11

00:00:21,821 --> 00:00:23,356

We know that you often work

12

00:00:23,356 --> 00:00:25,225

in exceptionally challenging circumstances.

13

00:00:25,959 --> 00:00:28,728

Although today is International Social Workers' Day,

14

00:00:28,862 --> 00:00:30,864

let's try to remember

15

00:00:30,864 --> 00:00:32,632

about the value of your work

16

00:00:32,632 --> 00:00:34,634

every day of the year.

17

00:00:34,634 --> 00:00:36,036

And we'll do what we can

18

00:00:36,036 --> 00:00:37,270

here in the Senedd to make sure

19

00:00:37,270 --> 00:00:39,272

you're given the support

20

00:00:39,272 --> 00:00:40,540

you need to do your work.

21

00:00:40,540 --> 00:00:41,708

Thank you very much

22

00:00:41,708 --> 00:00:42,909

to each and every one of you.

23

00:00:43,176 --> 00:00:46,212

Today is International

Social Workers' Day.

24

00:00:46,413 --> 00:00:49,883

And so I want to say a huge thank you
to all the social workers out there

25

00:00:50,050 --> 00:00:53,586

who are doing their very best
to give people the support to guide them

26

00:00:53,586 --> 00:00:56,990

through the systems that we have in place
so that people can get the help that

27

00:00:56,990 --> 00:00:58,525

they need when they need it.

28

00:00:58,525 --> 00:01:00,427

I was raised by a social worker,

29

00:01:00,427 --> 00:01:03,730

so I know the tremendous toll
it can sometimes take.

30

00:01:03,863 --> 00:01:07,667

But I want to say a huge
thank you for keeping going,

31

00:01:07,667 --> 00:01:11,271

doing your very best
and being there for the people in our community.

32

00:01:11,371 --> 00:01:12,372

Diolch.

33

00:01:12,839 --> 00:01:13,640

I'd love to take this

34

00:01:13,640 --> 00:01:17,444

opportunity today

to thank social workers across Wales

35

00:01:18,144 --> 00:01:22,782

who work hard to promote the rights

of our most vulnerable people,

36

00:01:23,383 --> 00:01:25,051

who we look after day in, day out.

37

00:01:25,051 --> 00:01:28,955

And as an ex-NHS worker

38

00:01:28,955 --> 00:01:32,358

who worked very closely

with social services over the years,

39

00:01:32,425 --> 00:01:37,730

I fully understand the dedication

and passion it takes to do this job.

40

00:01:37,831 --> 00:01:41,601

So I'd just like to take this opportunity
to recognise

41

00:01:41,734 --> 00:01:44,437

and fully support you in your role.

Practitioners tell us how social work can make a difference

[View transcript](#)

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:02,433

I think when people
ask me why did I go into social work,

2

00:00:02,433 --> 00:00:05,833

I think for me it was that
I grew up in a single parent household

3

00:00:05,833 --> 00:00:09,333

in an area of deprivation

and I actually saw the value of support

4

00:00:09,733 --> 00:00:11,733

and particularly into the home

that I grew up in.

5

00:00:11,733 --> 00:00:14,200

I think that really imprinted on me

as a child.

6

00:00:14,434 --> 00:00:15,634

When I look at my role

7

00:00:15,634 --> 00:00:18,634

and I think about the difference

that social work can make,

8

00:00:18,634 --> 00:00:22,267

I think apart from
the protection of society's most vulnerable,

9

00:00:22,801 --> 00:00:24,734

I think also that we can work with families

10

00:00:24,734 --> 00:00:26,734

so that they can identify
their own strengths.

11

00:00:26,734 --> 00:00:30,734

Often in times of crisis, families
can struggle to see what they can do well.

12

00:00:31,034 --> 00:00:34,135

And I think that's the difference social
workers do make for families.

13

00:00:34,301 --> 00:00:36,401

Why do I feel social work is important?

14

00:00:36,568 --> 00:00:40,102

I feel it's important

to fight social injustice,

15

00:00:40,502 --> 00:00:43,135

to challenge discrimination

and oppression,

16

00:00:43,635 --> 00:00:47,369

but mainly to be working alongside

citizens to find out

17

00:00:47,369 --> 00:00:50,569

what matters to them and what outcomes

that they want to achieve.

18

00:00:50,735 --> 00:00:51,902

I think we help families.

19

00:00:51,902 --> 00:00:55,569

I think we capture what matters
to families and young people and children.

20

00:00:56,536 --> 00:00:58,636

I think we try
to be a force for good in their lives.

21

00:00:58,636 --> 00:01:01,403

And when they're struggling,
we try and give them the tools to make

22

00:01:02,203 --> 00:01:04,497

their lives better
and to help them

23

00:01:04,497 --> 00:01:05,565

manage without social work.

24

00:01:05,569 --> 00:01:09,103

Throughout my working life, I've worked
with social workers in a variety

25

00:01:09,103 --> 00:01:12,403

of different contexts, and I've received
an enormous amount of support,

26

00:01:12,770 --> 00:01:15,170

guidance and help over the years.

27

00:01:15,170 --> 00:01:15,970

More than anything

28

00:01:15,970 --> 00:01:17,770

I just want to say

social workers have my respect

29

00:01:17,770 --> 00:01:19,570

I just want to say

social workers have my respect

30

00:01:19,570 --> 00:01:19,603

I just want to say

social workers have my respect

31

00:01:19,603 --> 00:01:22,804

and admiration and enormous thanks.

32

00:01:23,670 --> 00:01:25,370

Working alongside

33

00:01:25,370 --> 00:01:28,904

social workers, it's a very important

relationship between us and them.

34

00:01:29,071 --> 00:01:32,837

There is an awful lot to do
in a social work environment,

35

00:01:33,237 --> 00:01:35,004

but the importance is huge.

36

00:01:35,004 --> 00:01:38,438

Without those individuals
that work in social work,

37

00:01:38,438 --> 00:01:41,605

it would be near on impossible
for us to do our role delivering care.

38

00:01:41,905 --> 00:01:44,505

The main challenges for professionals

39

00:01:45,071 --> 00:01:48,872

has been

how social workers have been viewed,

40

00:01:49,505 --> 00:01:52,205

and that's a really

difficult thing to change.

41

00:01:53,272 --> 00:01:55,372

However, I think

42

00:01:55,905 --> 00:01:59,605

more recent changes

in offering

43

00:02:00,339 --> 00:02:03,706

a supportive view of social workers

44

00:02:04,606 --> 00:02:08,206

has to be pushed forward

so that families know

45

00:02:08,206 --> 00:02:11,373

they can reach out

and ask for help and support.

Social worker learned BSL to communicate with the Deaf community

[View transcript](#)

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:05,572

Hello my name is Bethan.

2

00:00:05,605 --> 00:00:09,075

I have been a social worker

for two and a half years.

3

00:00:09,075 --> 00:00:11,511

I think that social workers are important

4

00:00:11,511 --> 00:00:14,614

because they can help people to remain

5

00:00:14,614 --> 00:00:17,817

independent and live

the way that they choose.

6

00:00:17,984 --> 00:00:21,087

I am learning BSL to help me to

7

00:00:21,087 --> 00:00:23,656

communicate with Deaf people.

8

00:00:23,656 --> 00:00:25,525

I think

there's a great sense of appreciation

9

00:00:25,525 --> 00:00:28,895

being able to work with a person
to achieve their goals, whether their goal

10

00:00:28,895 --> 00:00:32,232

is to simply be listened
to, to have help to access the community

11

00:00:32,432 --> 00:00:35,068

or to have care implemented
to support their physical needs.

12

00:00:35,535 --> 00:00:38,471

There can be challenges within social work,
especially when there's

13

00:00:38,471 --> 00:00:39,939

a lack of resources,

14

00:00:39,939 --> 00:00:43,176

but we discuss these challenges
during a morning meeting to creatively

15

00:00:43,176 --> 00:00:47,447

explore ways we can support a person
to achieve their desired outcomes.

16

00:00:47,580 --> 00:00:49,816

Overall, I love being a social worker.

17

00:00:50,083 --> 00:00:53,219

I love working in a passionate
and creative environment,

18

00:00:53,553 --> 00:00:56,656

promoting independence,
protecting dignity

19

00:00:56,823 --> 00:01:00,260

and advocating for the wants and the wishes
of the people that we work with.

Leaders explain the value of social work

[View transcript](#)

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:01,101

I'm very proud

2

00:00:01,101 --> 00:00:02,302

to have the honour of

3

00:00:02,302 --> 00:00:03,970

working in the

social care sector

4

00:00:04,771 --> 00:00:06,072

and being able to

influence

5

00:00:06,072 --> 00:00:07,307

the lives of children,

6

00:00:07,307 --> 00:00:09,442

individuals and families.

7

00:00:09,843 --> 00:00:10,744

Social work is

8

00:00:10,744 --> 00:00:11,611

extremely important

9

00:00:11,611 --> 00:00:13,046

within communities

10

00:00:13,680 --> 00:00:15,048

as it is an essential

role

11

00:00:15,048 --> 00:00:17,784

to ensure people's safety,

success

12

00:00:17,784 --> 00:00:18,952

and development.

13

00:00:20,420 --> 00:00:22,422

Everyone has a right

to thrive

14

00:00:23,189 --> 00:00:24,758

and social workers

15

00:00:24,758 --> 00:00:26,159

support making that happen.

16

00:00:27,460 --> 00:00:28,862

Social work

17

00:00:28,862 --> 00:00:30,263

succeeds in strengthening

18

00:00:30,263 --> 00:00:31,131

families and children.

19

00:00:31,731 --> 00:00:33,199

It makes sure that individuals

20

00:00:33,199 --> 00:00:35,001

with a disability can contribute

21

00:00:35,001 --> 00:00:36,102

in every aspect of life.

22

00:00:37,070 --> 00:00:39,139

And it can help to ensure
care is available

23

00:00:39,272 --> 00:00:40,974

where it's needed

24

00:00:41,107 --> 00:00:42,575

so people can live
the life

25

00:00:42,575 --> 00:00:43,810

they want.

26

00:00:44,911 --> 00:00:46,913

The reward from this
work

27

00:00:46,913 --> 00:00:48,715

is making a positive

difference

28

00:00:48,715 --> 00:00:49,649

to people's lives.

29

00:00:50,250 --> 00:00:51,518

And allowing us

30

00:00:51,518 --> 00:00:52,886

to achieve the results

31

00:00:52,886 --> 00:00:54,020

that we want.

32

00:00:55,221 --> 00:00:56,289

No two days

33

00:00:56,289 --> 00:00:57,390

in a social worker's life

34

00:00:57,390 --> 00:00:58,591

are the same,

35

00:00:59,159 --> 00:01:00,593

with new challenges arising

36

00:01:00,593 --> 00:01:01,094

continually.

37

00:01:01,995 --> 00:01:02,762

Despite that

38

00:01:02,762 --> 00:01:04,197

this is an extremely

39

00:01:04,197 --> 00:01:05,532

worthwhile career

40

00:01:05,532 --> 00:01:07,167

within our communities.

41

00:01:07,167 --> 00:01:09,369

I think social work is really special.

42

00:01:10,036 --> 00:01:15,108

It's a very important part
of the public sector work that we offer.

43

00:01:15,275 --> 00:01:18,678

It's intended
to really support individuals

44

00:01:18,678 --> 00:01:22,282

and assess people who need care
and support.

45

00:01:22,282 --> 00:01:26,019

It's also about making sure
people are safe and ensuring

46

00:01:26,019 --> 00:01:30,523

that we have a really good
and robust response to those in need.

47

00:01:30,824 --> 00:01:33,393

I think social work also is

48

00:01:33,393 --> 00:01:37,230

about embracing inclusivity
and making sure that everybody in

49

00:01:37,230 --> 00:01:40,867

our community is helped
whenever they need it.

50

00:01:41,568 --> 00:01:44,971

Social work is also a statutory role
and not a lot of people

51

00:01:44,971 --> 00:01:49,275

understand that we have powers
to intervene and powers to protect,

52

00:01:49,275 --> 00:01:52,779

which are really important
alongside our emergency services.

53

00:01:53,012 --> 00:01:56,483

I love and embrace being
a social worker.

54

00:01:56,483 --> 00:02:00,587

I'm very proud of that
and I think it's something that

55

00:02:00,587 --> 00:02:03,556

lots of people should think about
in terms of a career choice.

Hear from social work students

[View transcript](#)

1

00:00:00,133 --> 00:00:03,200

I've always wanted to become
a social worker for as long as I remember.

2

00:00:03,400 --> 00:00:07,133

I've been lucky enough to gain
a multitude of roles supporting people

3

00:00:07,133 --> 00:00:08,566

within the community.

4

00:00:08,566 --> 00:00:10,666

This has allowed me
to see the incredible work

5

00:00:10,666 --> 00:00:13,833

that social workers
do within our community,

6

00:00:14,066 --> 00:00:17,533

and just how much the local community
heavily relies on the support

7

00:00:17,533 --> 00:00:22,200

and services provided by social services
and social workers.

8

00:00:22,700 --> 00:00:27,633

Being 30 and going back to university
came with its own anxieties. Very worried

9

00:00:27,633 --> 00:00:31,433

as I hadn't set foot in a classroom
for the best part of 10 years.

10

00:00:32,266 --> 00:00:36,733

However, that was quickly put to rest
when I realised what a great

11

00:00:37,966 --> 00:00:39,700

course this is.

12

00:00:39,700 --> 00:00:42,333

We've had so many guest speakers

13

00:00:42,333 --> 00:00:45,433

come and talk to us

with their own experiences,

14

00:00:46,200 --> 00:00:51,166

and knowledge, as well as the experience and knowledge from our own lecturers and tutors.

15

00:00:51,166 --> 00:00:55,533

This is probably one of the best decisions I've done, is take up this course.

16

00:00:56,066 --> 00:00:58,700

And this is the beginning of my journey as a social worker

17

00:00:59,200 --> 00:01:01,800

and I'm really, really looking forward to it.

18

00:01:02,133 --> 00:01:06,100

So if anyone is thinking of becoming a qualified social worker,

19

00:01:07,233 --> 00:01:08,266

the smile on my face should

20

00:01:08,266 --> 00:01:12,000

be enough to tell you that this has been
one of the best decisions that I've done.

21

00:01:12,566 --> 00:01:17,100

I've really enjoyed the course.

I've had lots of good experiences

22

00:01:17,100 --> 00:01:20,466

on my placements

and I felt really supported

23

00:01:20,500 --> 00:01:26,566

and I am really looking forward
to starting my career as a social worker.

24

00:01:27,266 --> 00:01:29,900

I'm passionate about person-centred practice

25

00:01:30,200 --> 00:01:33,900

and keeping the individual

in the centre of their care and support.

26

00:01:34,933 --> 00:01:39,166

I feel social work is important

to empower people

27

00:01:39,566 --> 00:01:42,300

and standing up against social injustice.

28

00:01:43,466 --> 00:01:44,766

I love the variety

29

00:01:44,766 --> 00:01:47,600

social work has to offer,
and I'm always learning.

30

00:01:48,800 --> 00:01:52,166

There are some challenges, such
as the cost of living crisis

31

00:01:52,733 --> 00:01:55,433

at the moment,
along with the lack of services available,

32

00:01:55,700 --> 00:01:59,433

especially with care agencies
and finding care.

33

00:02:00,100 --> 00:02:02,666

And another challenge at the moment,
I would say,

34

00:02:02,666 --> 00:02:05,666

is increased pressure
on limited resources.

35

00:02:05,966 --> 00:02:09,166

But as a social worker,
I'm able to work creatively

36

00:02:09,700 --> 00:02:13,300

to reduce some of the challenges,
which will help

37

00:02:13,300 --> 00:02:16,133

people to achieve what matters to them.

A message from Albert Heaney CBE, Chief Social Care Officer for Wales

[View transcript](#)

1

00:00:00,062 --> 00:00:02,312

Hello everyone.

2

00:00:02,687 --> 00:00:06,375

As Chief Social Care
Officer for Wales

3

00:00:06,437 --> 00:00:11,687

I'm glad that we're celebrating the
incredible dedication

4

00:00:11,687 --> 00:00:17,437

of social workers across Wales and all over the world.

5

00:00:17,437 --> 00:00:21,375

As Chief Social Care Officer
for Wales, I'm delighted

6

00:00:21,375 --> 00:00:24,875

we're all taking time
to recognise the vital role

7

00:00:24,875 --> 00:00:28,164

social work has in the world today,
and to celebrate

8

00:00:28,164 --> 00:00:29,596

the incredible dedication

9

00:00:29,596 --> 00:00:29,625

social work has in the world today,
and to celebrate the incredible dedication

10

00:00:29,750 --> 00:00:35,250

and achievements of social workers
across Wales and around the world.

11

00:00:35,562 --> 00:00:40,375

All of us who work in social
care will reflect on the past few years

12

00:00:40,875 --> 00:00:45,125

as perhaps the most difficult
we have seen in our lifetime.

13

00:00:45,500 --> 00:00:48,589

The pandemic has been a once in a lifetime

14

00:00:48,589 --> 00:00:50,917

challenge, and that for many

15

00:00:51,250 --> 00:00:53,625

has shattered their lives and communities

16

00:00:53,937 --> 00:00:56,937

and made the vulnerable more vulnerable.

17

00:00:57,500 --> 00:01:00,000

It then falls to those

18

00:01:00,000 --> 00:01:02,687

who represent the isolated,

19

00:01:02,687 --> 00:01:06,687

the at risk,

those least able to help themselves

20

00:01:07,125 --> 00:01:10,687

to deliver so much more

during these most difficult times.

21

00:01:11,125 --> 00:01:13,437

And you, as social workers have.

22

00:01:15,062 --> 00:01:17,312

And, as we hope to continue

23

00:01:17,312 --> 00:01:23,125

our recovery from the impacts
of the pandemic, we face new challenges

24

00:01:23,375 --> 00:01:28,125

from the war in Ukraine
and from the cost of living crisis.

25

00:01:29,250 --> 00:01:34,125

Once again, it is your professionalism
and dedication that continue

26

00:01:34,125 --> 00:01:38,750

to provide support and protection
for individuals and communities in Wales.

27

00:01:39,500 --> 00:01:43,812

As a former social worker myself,
I know how difficult and frustrating

28

00:01:43,812 --> 00:01:47,250

it can be sometimes, but that it is

29

00:01:47,250 --> 00:01:52,000

you who makes the difference
in helping people to live more fulfilling,

30

00:01:52,000 --> 00:01:56,312

independent lives
and protecting those most at risk.

31

00:01:57,125 --> 00:02:01,937

Thank you for all that you do
for your resilience, your commitment,

32

00:02:01,937 --> 00:02:04,937

your strength, and for delivering positive

33

00:02:04,937 --> 00:02:07,293

change for the people you support.

34

00:02:07,293 --> 00:02:07,312

your strength, and for delivering positive
change for the people you support.

35

00:02:07,875 --> 00:02:11,500

Thank you for everything you do.