



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

Social Work Week 2024

Between 18 and 22 March we'll be hosting events and sharing inspiring messages to celebrate social work week.

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Go to <https://socialcare.wales/resources-guidance/social-workers/social-work-week-2024> for the latest version.

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Social Work Week takes place from **Monday 18 to Friday 22 March**. It brings people together to celebrate social work.

During the week, we're hosting a [series of events](#) focusing on collaboration, well-being and areas of practice improvement.

And on Tuesday 19 March we'll be celebrating World Social Work Day by sharing inspiring video messages from social work leaders.

Who is Social Work Week for?

Social Work Week is for everyone with an interest in social work in Wales. This includes:

- social workers, including those practising and those looking to return to the profession
- social work students and educators
- people with lived experience of social work
- employers of social workers
- the wider social care workforce
- government and policy officials
- Social Care Wales employees and partner organisations.

Join our events!

Take a look at our programme of events below, covering a range of topics, from well-being to neurodiversity, and follow the links to Eventbrite to book your place.

Attending our events will count towards your continuous professional development (CPD) if you're registered with us.

Booking for our events is now closed.

If you've already registered and have any questions, please email cerian.twinberrow@socialcare.wales and emily.bates@socialcare.wales and we'll be happy to help.

Monday 18 March, 10am to 12pm

Well-being in Social Care: What works and what doesn't

Online

This session will be led by [Rebecca Cicero](#), Improvement and Development Manager, at Social Care Wales and [Dr Giles P Croft](#), a psychology graduate and former NHS surgeon who runs a heart-centred coaching practice.

'Well-being in the workplace' is all the rage, but some solutions leave individuals feeling blamed and overburdened. When resources are so stretched, what difference can wellness initiatives *really* make?

In this light-hearted, insightful session, you'll learn the surprising reason why most approaches fail, and in doing so, unlock the secret to navigating your *own* workplace with much greater ease.

Monday 18 March, 1.30pm to 3.30pm

Unpaid carers workshop

Online

This workshop about unpaid carers will cover training, resources and good practice.

We'll be joined by [Jake Smith](#), Senior Policy and Public Affairs Officer at Carers Wales who'll talk about:

- the Carer Aware project and social worker training
- the Carer Aware good practice principles for social workers, co-produced with carers and social workers
- the good practice social workers have seen in terms of interacting with carers, and the obstacles and challenges they face
- advice and resources to help social workers who also have unpaid caring responsibilities of their own.

[Cerian Twinberrow](#) from Social Care Wales will explain:

- how our resources and learning can support social workers to work with carers
- how unpaid carers are relevant to the Social Work Workforce Plan and wider context.

Tuesday 19 March, 10am to 12pm

Supervision in social work

Online

During this two-hour session we'll hear from our presenters:

- [David Wilkins](#), Reader and programme director of the MA Social Work course at Cardiff University

- **Claire Phillips**, Team Manager Powys County Council
- **Dr Lucy Treby**, Qualified social worker

They'll be looking at:

- how supervision is delivered in social work
- different theories, models and methods of supervision and how these affect social workers and people who access social work support
- the potential benefits and challenges of different methods of supervision.

There will be an opportunity to ask questions at the end of the session.

Tuesday 19 March, 2pm to 4pm

Strengths-based practice - panel discussion and questions

Online

“Strength based practices in social work”.

“How to have difficult conversations - insights from Motivational Interviewing”.

Professor Donald Forrester will talk about Motivational Interviewing and why social work conversations often involve tensions or conflicts. We'll look at how Motivational Interviewing might help us understand and work with these better.

This will be followed by a panel discussion with experts from the field of strengths-based practice:

- **Rhoda Emlyn-Jones OBE**
- **Professor Samantha Baron**, BASW National Director (Cymru)
- **Rachel Scourfield**

There will also be an opportunity to ask the panel questions about this area of practice.

Wednesday 20 March, 10am to 12pm

Is this thing on? Technology and social work with adults

Online

Technology can be a useful part of a social work professional's toolkit, but understanding how and which bits of tech can help us can be tricky.

This session will be led by:

- **[Aimee Twinberrow](#)**, Digital Innovation Lead at Social Care Wales
- **[Matt Lloyd](#)**, Prevention and Well-Being Programme Manager for the Gwent Regional Partnership Board (RPB)
- **[Meilys Heulfryn Smith](#)**, Supporting Health and Wellbeing Senior Manager, Gwynedd County Council
- **Paul Mazurek**, Flintshire County Council.

The hosts will talk about technology enabled care and social work with adults.

- Learn how technology can help people achieve positive outcomes with real life examples.
- Explore some of the challenges social work professionals may face when using technology as part of collaborative social work.
- Gain access to information, resources and practical tips to help you confidently discuss technology with people you support.

There will also be an opportunity to ask questions about this area of practice.

Attending this session will count towards your continuous professional development (CPD) if you're registered with us.

Wednesday 20 March, 2pm to 4pm

Valuing Lived Experience Expertise

Online

[Hannah Morland-Jones](#) and [Paul Whittaker](#) from Recovery College will explore the value of lived experience expertise in mental health recovery, using examples from Wales.

They'll be looking at:

- the Recovery College model
- peer support and
- co-production and engagement.

There will also be an opportunity to ask questions about this area of practice.

Hannah Morland-Jones is Strategic Programme Manager for Lived Experience (HEIW) and Head of Recovery College and Lived Experience (CAVUHB)

Paul Whittaker is Project Lead for National Recovery (HEIW) and Peer Consultant (Recovery and Wellbeing College CAVUHB)

Thursday 21 March, 10am to 12pm

National Recovery College relationship-centred care workshop

Online

Join our trainers [Hannah Morland-Jones](#) and [Paul Whittaker](#) from Recovery College for this workshop to explore and learn about relationship-centred care, support and learning in guiding mental health services.

The session will take a co-production approach that brings together participants' diverse knowledge, experience and insights.

Hannah Morland-Jones is Strategic Programme Manager for Lived Experience (HEIW) and Head of Recovery College and Lived Experience (CAVUHB)

Paul Whittaker is Project Lead for National Recovery (HEIW) and Peer Consultant (Recovery and Wellbeing College CAVUHB)

Thursday 22 March, 1pm to 2pm

What does it mean to be a regulated professional in the United Kingdom?

Online

This session is hosted by Social Work England.

Join the leaders of Britain's four social work regulators as they discuss their common experiences of social work regulation and how regulation contributes to a strong sense of professional identity for social work to attract, train and retain workforce.

The presenters are:

- **Social Care Wales:** David Pritchard, Director of Regulation
- **Social Work England:** Colum Conway, Chief Executive
- **Northern Ireland Social Care Council:** Patricia Higgins, Chief Executive
- **Scottish Social Services Council:** Laura Lamb, Acting Director of Workforce, Education and Standards

Friday 22 March, 10am to 12pm

Social work and neurodiversity

Online

This interactive session aims to share knowledge skills and experiences around the topic of neurodiversity. It will be hosted by [Fiona McDonald](#) and [Alice Lewis-Gray](#), two professionals with lived experience of being neurodiverse and working in the helping profession.

The presenters have a passion for working with neurodivergent people and developing the wider understanding in the workforce.

What we'll cover

In this session, you'll:

- get a brief overview of what is neurodiversity, looking at the impact of autism and dyslexia in greater detail
- learn about the strengths and limitations of these conditions and how to overcome barriers to success at work
- hear stories and case examples to aid reflection and deepen learning in this area
- learn simple and practical top tips that could aid the whole team
- hear about assistive technology and the amazing difference they can make in saving time
- find out the next steps you could take to support yourself or other neurodiverse people in your workforce.

The views and opinions expressed at these workshops are those of the speakers and do not necessarily reflect the views of the organisations they represent, or the views and opinions of Social Care Wales.