

#thebiglisten

Valuing Children's Social Workers in the South East Your Chance to be heard and to help improve your working environment

Your invitation to attend a short focus group to tell us how we can make children's services a better place to work. To book a place for the links below

Focus Group for	Date	Time	Follow link to book a place
Locality Authority Employed Social Work Managers	Tuesday 22nd November	11am - 12pm	https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/453148237577
Local Authority Employed Social Workers	Thursday 24th November	9:30am - 10:30am	https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/453198457787
Agency Social Workers and Managers	Monday 28th November	11am - 12pm	https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/453224786537
Social Workers in their Assessed and Supported Year in Employment (AYSE)	Wednesday 30th November	9:30am - 10:30am	https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/453230212767
Student/ Apprentice Social Workers	Friday 2nd December	9:30am - 10:30am	https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/453237986017

What is the big listen?

Local Authorities and Children's Trust across the South East have funded a piece of research to improve understanding of how we can better support children's social workers working in the region. We recognise that more needs to be done to help attract and retain good social workers and managers.

Who are we listening to?

We are interested in all aspects of social work and frontline management and are holding focus groups for a wide range of staff including social work students, AYSE social workers, experienced local authority social workers, agency social workers and social work managers.

What will happen at the focus groups?

The sessions will be an hour long and held on Microsoft Teams. Each of the sessions is likely to be attended by 15-45 social workers. Topics for discussion will include:

- What matters most to you about your job
- Workload
- Tools for doing your job
- Support, supervision and training
- Progression and career development opportunities
- Agency staff
- Pay and conditions

They will be interactive workshops groups enabled by an independent facilitator. Each of the meetings will be recorded to help analyse the information shared.

What do we plan to do with the information collected?

The information collected at the focus groups will be used by the 19 Authorities in the SE in partnership with the 33 London Local Authorities to develop a deeper understanding of how we can improve the workplace for children's social workers and managers. The information collated will be anonymised and not attributed to any individual. The research will also include surveys of social work professionals and research to identify best practice that we can learn from. We aim to complete the research and report back in Spring 2024.

Who is doing the research?

The research is being conducted by the South Sector Led Improvement Programme (SESLIP) in partnership with the London Innovation and Improvement Alliance (LIIA). Both are not for profit organisations funded by local authority partners who work to support and improve children's services.

If you would like any more information please contact Mark@markevansconsulting.co.uk