

Principles of practice by principle social workers

Edited by Tanya Moore

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Reviewed by Joanne Solanki

Overview of main themes

Following a forward by Lord Patel and Ian Lawrence, the editor, Tanya Moore, gave a brief introduction about the role of the Principle Social Worker (PSW) and the content of each chapter. This sets the scene well. There are 13 Chapters included in the book. Each chapter is written by a Principle Social Worker.

Chapters Include:

1. The patchwork of relationships by Sarah Range
2. Ways of writing by Fiona Hayward
3. Relationship-based practice by Claudia Megele
4. Relationships and Reciprocity? Strengths-based social work in adult social care by Tanya Moore.
5. Safeguarding adults by Fran Ledora
6. A reflection on online relationships and the changing landscape of practice by Claudia Megele
7. Human rights and social work by Hannah Scaife
8. Does sustainability have a place in social work? By Tendai Murowe
9. Poverty and the need for radical relational practice by Lisa Aldridge
10. Anti-racist leadership by Sara Taylor
11. Understanding racial dynamics in supervision by Godfred Boahen
12. Social worker's relationship with CPD by Tanya Moore
13. Our well-being by Leire Agirre

Reading the list of chapters immediately grabbed me. Having a passion myself about building relationships in social work, the chapters appeared to unpick different aspects to this. Having some understanding of relationship-based social work I was interested in some of the chapters that would push me to think about new thoughts and ideas such as 'Ways of writing' and 'Sustainability in social work' as well as the links with

safeguarding, poverty, anti-racist practice and human rights. Throughout the chapters examples from practice experience were given and these brought the subject to life. I enjoyed reading these and they helped to critically reflect on the author's discussion.

Critique and relevance:

Overall, I found this book very readable. As someone who is involved in social work education in various roles, I was able to relate my own experiences reading through each chapter. Most of the topics I had either heard of or know quite well, but there were a couple I had not come across which is always refreshing. 'Ways of Writing' by Fiona Hayward was interesting. I am aware that professional writing and use of language in various situations are becoming a topic of interest. The author shared her learning points and gave examples that would be helpful to students and NQSWs.

'Does sustainability have a place in social work' by Tendai Murowe highlights a subject that we are all mindful of in our day-to-day lives, but I had never specifically thought about it related to social work. The author challenged what we might think about the issue of sustainability in social work practice. It reminds us that this issue impacts on the people we work with, and we should be able to find ways to support others in that journey.

Relationship-based practice is covered in different chapters, and it gives the reader a chance to reflect on how they can get back to building positive working relationships with service users. Claudia Megele gives a helpful model called 'Empower'. It is a tool she and a colleague designed after consultation with practitioners. She explains what each letter stands for and then gives examples of questions social workers could ask themselves when they are working with service users.

I really liked the chapter on 'Anti-Racist Leadership' by Sara Taylor. Her writing is easy to grasp for students or NQSWs who have not really looked at this topic in their studies. As a white social work educator who has often been in an assessor role with black and ethnic minority students, I could relate to the chapter on 'Understanding racial dynamics in supervision' by Godfred Boahen. It sets a reminder in a busy world how easy it can be not to be mindful of this in supervision. The author uses the word visible and invisible. He explores some examples that

we can reflect on in our own preparation for supervising a student or NQSW from the black and ethnic minority population.

The primary thing I really liked about the chapters in this book were the examples given by the authors. They brought their topic to life and made me stop and reflect on my own practice as a social work educator. The book lends itself to being able to read a chapter, put the book down and then come back to a different chapter as needed. It is also a book in its simplicity would be valuable to international readers. It does not pretend to cover in detail any significant differences there might be.

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