

# Review

*Social Work Practice:  
Assessment, planning, intervention and review*  
Jonathan Parker and Greta Bradley  
Exeter, Learning Matters, (2nd edition) 2007, 168pp  
ISBN 9781844451135, £15.00

Over the past few years the book series 'Transforming Social Work Practice' from Learning Matters has produced a number of good, readable texts, primarily designed for social work degree courses. Amongst the best of these, published in 2003, was *Social Work Practice: Assessment, planning, intervention and review* by Jonathan Parker and Greta Bradley. Now, four years on, the second edition of this popular volume is published.

So, apart from the five extra pages, how has this second edition moved on from the first? It retains the overall feel of a good, foundation textbook: either to accompany a specific module on social work processes and skills, and/or as a general text that will underpin a variety of modules across the range of social work arenas. In being generically based, but incorporating examples and case studies from a variety of service areas, it promotes and aids transfer of learning and skills across specialisms. Indeed, this second edition includes updated policy and legislative contexts bringing in topics such as risk assessment, eligibility criteria and fair access to services; which are key aspects of current social work reality for students to grapple with.

This edition strengthens the content on other current issues through expanded writing on values, diversity issues, and service user involvement. In my view this gives a good lead in to another Learning Matters book focusing more deeply on service user and carer participation (Warren, 2007).

Chapter 3, on planning, introduces SMART plans, and exemplifies plans for children in need, in relation to Every Child Matters; whilst in

Chapter 4, on intervention, the text is updated to incorporate the Marsh and Doel (2005) 13-element model of task-centered practice.

The reference list is expanded and updated; and some useful web-references have been inserted within the main text.

This book is packed with case studies and activities, striking a good balance between generic examples and specialist ones. This makes it a very useful tool for concretising and transferring learning, both across social work specialisms and through integration of theory into practice. It is pertinent to classroom-based, distance and practice learning.

In my view this second edition is well worth the investment as a current, all-round text for both students and practitioners; and provides some excellent tools for practice teachers to use with students in practice contexts.

## References

- Marsh, P. and Doel, M. (2005) *The Task-Centred Book*. London: Routledge  
Warren, J. (2007) *Service User and Carer Participation in Social Work*, Exeter: Learning Matters

Adrian Black  
Principal Lecturer, Social Work  
Anglia Ruskin University

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