



Stories into social work

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We all have a story to tell.

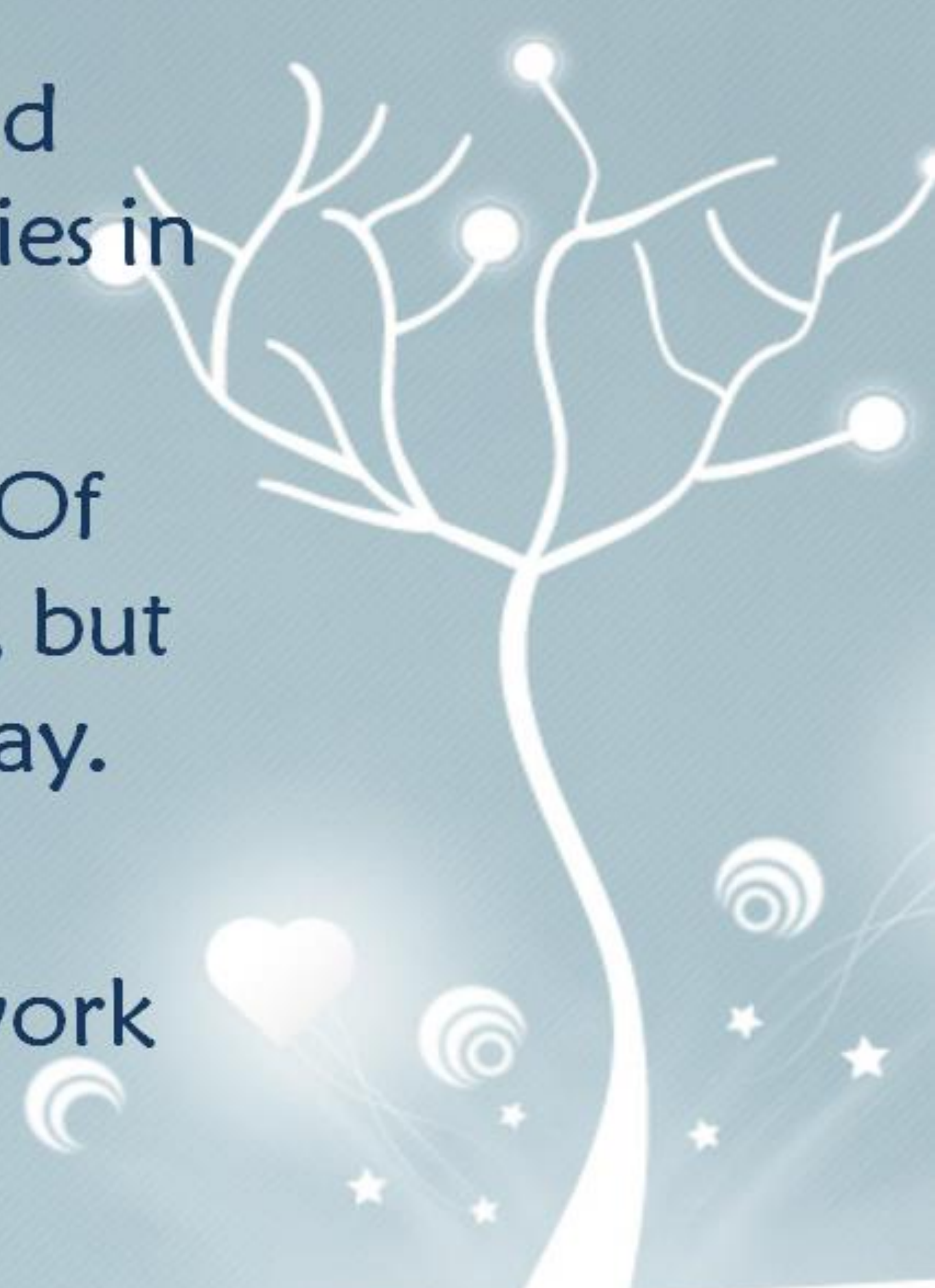
Social workers are called on to witness the most private of happenings.

So, it is a privilege for me to present stories about social workers: how they came to enter a profession that is often discussed, but little understood.

I have gathered, edited and represented these unique stories in a graphic form.

I am simply the storyteller. Of course, I have my own story, but will save that for another day.

What's your story?
What inspires you and the work that you do?



History in the making

OLIVE STEVENSON, CBE

FORMER PROFESSOR EMERITUS OF SOCIAL
WORK
(13/12/1930 – 30/09/2013)



Career Pathway

Worked in a Children's
Home

Degree in English at Oxford

Trained as a social worker -
LSE

Working with foster carers
and children in care

Advanced social casework
training – Tavistock Clinic

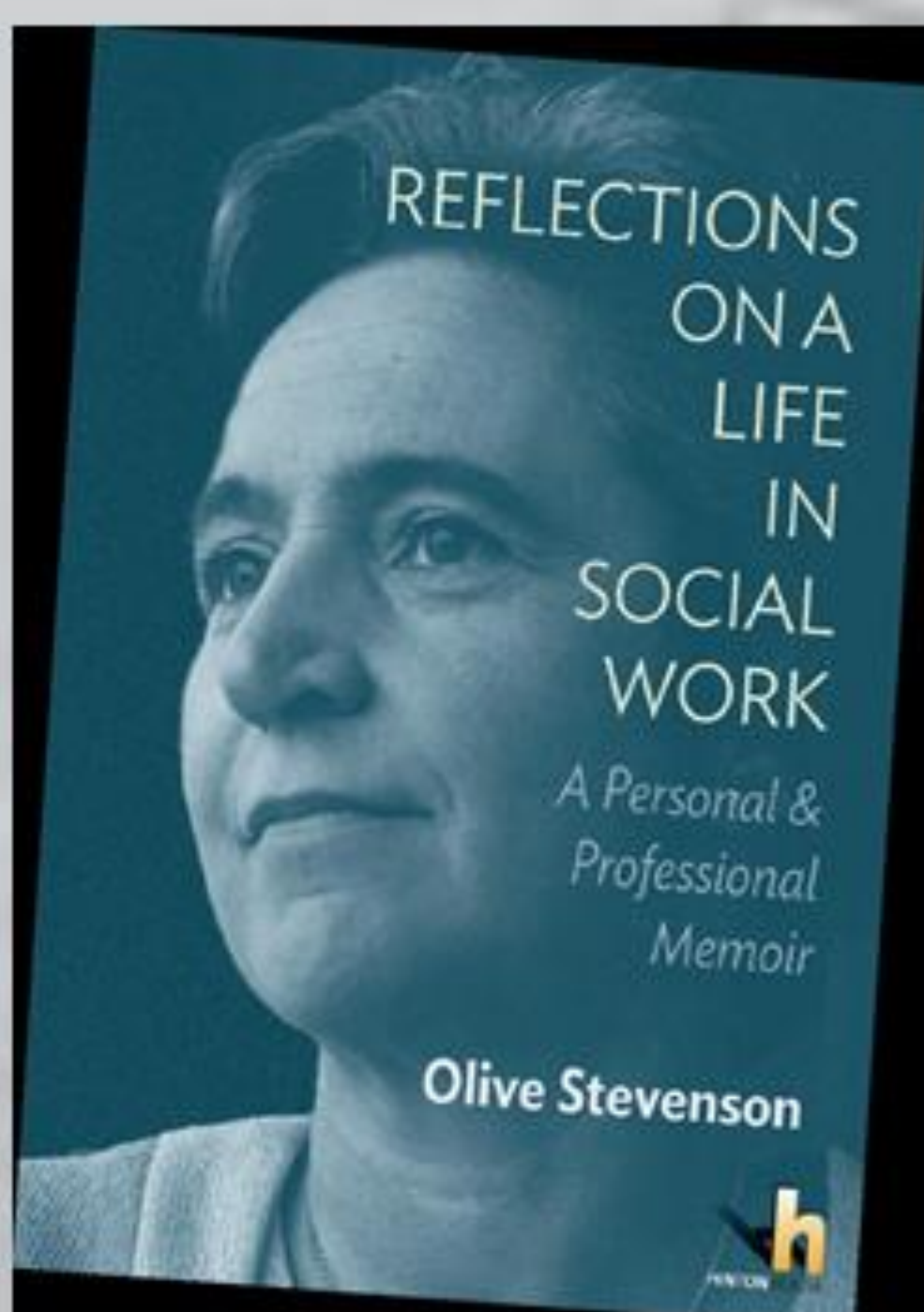
Began academic career

The School of Social Work is grateful to Olive in her role as honorary professor at Kingston University. She inspired staff, students and many practitioners attending the annual research conference which she chaired until her health prevented her.

When I interviewed Olive in 2010, she described her story into social work, 'In my 'gap' year, I worked with disturbed girls at a children's home. I did my English degree as planned, but carried on working there during the holidays...

I went on to train as a social worker. This was in the 1950's. I was fortunate enough to be influenced by seminal practitioners: Clare & Donald Winnicott, John Bowlby, Melanie Klein, & Anna Freud. It was history in the making.'

Olive continues to be internationally acclaimed for her legacy to social work. This spanned over 50 years: in safeguarding children, vulnerable adults & as a researcher and educator.



Olive's memoir

Cornishman becomes a Professor after failing 'A' Levels

Professor Ray Jones



I learnt fast about mental
health & medication .
You had to sink or swim.

Career Pathway

Volunteer

Student social worker

Psychiatric social worker

Social worker—adolescents

Team Manager

University Lecturer in social work

Senior Manager in social work

Director of Social Services

Chief Executive of Social Care
Institute of Excellence

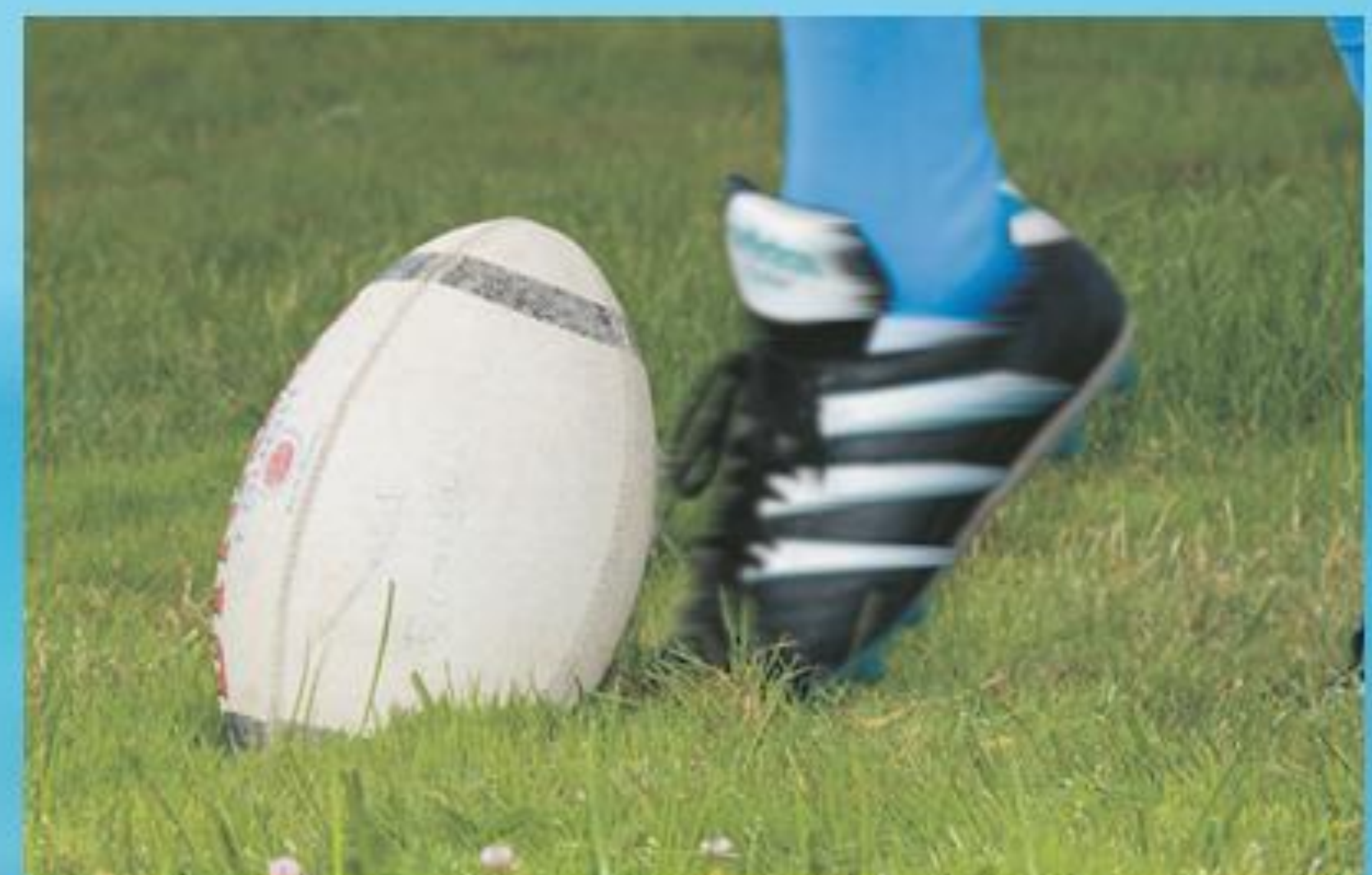
Professor of Social Work—
Kingston University

I am a Cornishman who stumbled
into social work because I failed my 'A'
Levels.

I worked as a Volunteer in a hostel
while I re-sat my exams. This was a unit
for people who were both mentally ill,
and 'mentally handicapped'.

I loved it and changed my degree from
Geology and Geography to Social Work
and Sociology. It was a big deal at the
time, as both my grandfathers had
been Cornish tin miners...

**I have been a member of the
same rugby team for 54 years
— now as a spectator**



A simple notion of 'service'

Professor Jane Lindsay:
Head of School of Social Work, Kingston University

I grew up in Ireland. My father was a Rector in the Church of Ireland, and my mother was involved in women's groups and a teacher so the notion of 'service' was strong in our household.

I did lots of voluntary work: with older people, children in children's homes, visiting prisoners. The more I did, the more questions I had: what makes people homeless? Why do some men rape? Why do women stay when living with domestic abuse?

This spirit of inquiry led me to work in prisons, with people living with HIV and AIDS in Uganda, and with children's social workers and educators in Palestine.

It is extraordinary to me that my evaluation work with Palestinian social workers influenced national policy there, and that the manual I wrote about working with men who have been abusive in their relationships is now used nationally across the UK.



Career Pathway

Voluntary Work

Probation Officer

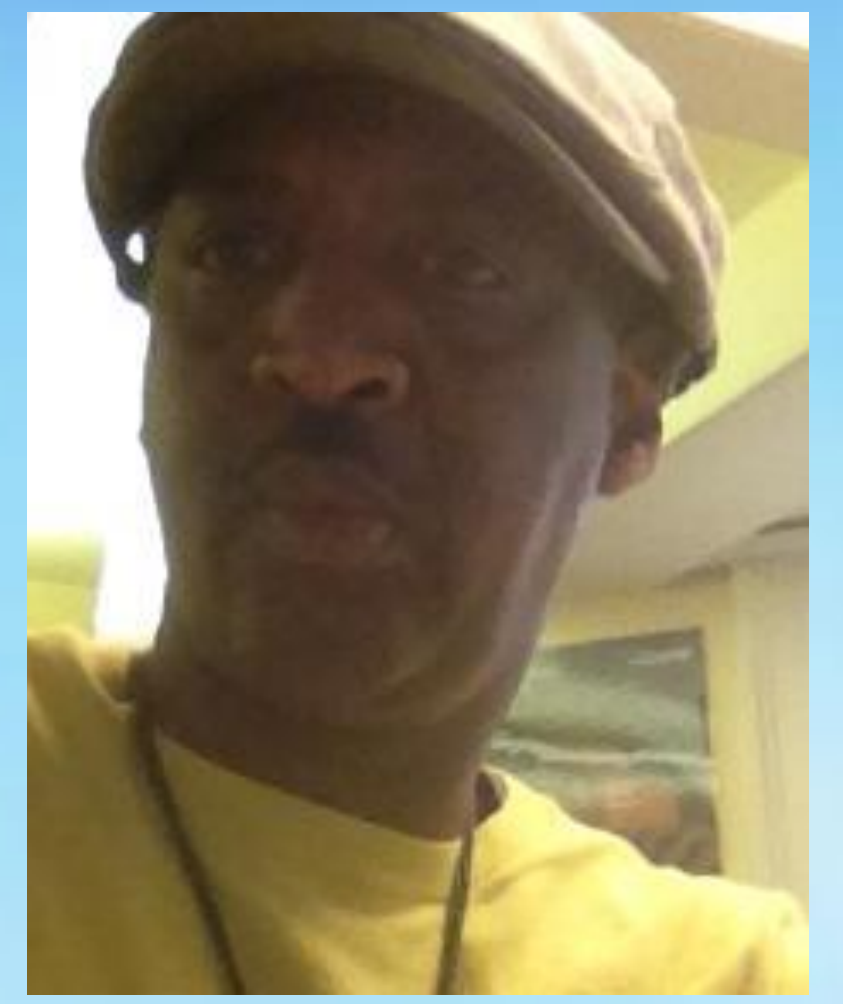
VSO – Uganda

Probation Officer

I have worked within the Probation Service for over thirty years. I have also been a lecturer at Kingston University for over twenty years.

Inspiration

- ❖ Seeing our students work & go on to teach in universities all over London, & beyond.
- ❖ 'Service' is still a strong ethos



My Journey - Cleve Jackson

The worlds not fair
Educations the key
Unlock the mystery,

Race a defining feature
In a country where home is never quite here

Money, money, money
The challenge of riches versus fun
And guess what
Youth and Social work won

And now the music plays.
Creativity
To keep the juices and passions flowing
To bring it all together and be true to self

Career Pathway

Cleve has been a qualified social worker for many years. He has worked with children, with foster carers and as a Team Manager. He is an Independent Social Worker and Educator.

He is also a poet and writer of children's books – a copy of one of his books is on display

Looking beyond the surface

Craig Cairns

Career Pathway

Residential worker – secure unit

Qualified in Social Work

Worked with vulnerable children and families as a social worker and as a manager

Trained as a psychotherapist

Now is an Independent Consultant, working with senior managers to bring about organisational change

It was the 1970's & I was struggling in the first year of my PhD in Anthropology. In desperation, I applied for all sorts of jobs. I ended up working with severely disturbed young men.

I have never experienced such terror in my life. You didn't know from one moment to the next what they would literally throw at you.

I was lucky to work with a charismatic manager who wanted to make a difference to those kids lives.

In those days, we hadn't heard of sexual abuse... or to look beyond surface behaviour .


What inspires me:

Being at a football match – especially when your team scores. To be a part of thousands of people cheering in unison is magic.



All roads led to social work

Careers Guidance



I "discovered"
Social Work
through school
Careers Guidance.

What inspires me


My family ... and
an addiction to
travel!

Getting qualified

As a white middle class
South African I was very
privileged, I realised
later, to attend
university and qualify as
a social worker.

Having grown up in
Apartheid South Africa,
my first real integration
with other ethnic
groups occurred when I
became a social work
student in the mid 80's.

Experience



Working with displaced people
from the former Yugoslavia and
other Europeans in Austria;
extensive travels throughout
Europe and some of the former
Eastern block countries was really
where I learned experientially
about power and discrimination
in social contexts. It led to
irrevocable changes such as a
conscious decision not to return
to South Africa

Constant re-invention - pottery & social work



Jeremy Ross:

Career Pathway

Research Officer - MIND

Training to social workers
and nurses – MIND

Qualified in Social Work

Developed supported
housing for people with
mental health problems –
MIND

Chief Executive –
Wandsworth MIND

Senior Lecturer in SW –
Kingston University

My greatest achievement has been managing the development of supported housing for people with mental health problems languishing in the long stay psychiatric hospitals.

Seeing people living in ordinary houses, increasing in confidence and even getting work after decades of incarceration is truly rewarding.

Learning to throw pots has given me endless joy. It reminds me of our capacity for personal transformation.



Pioneering Change

- Naveed Bokhari



Career Pathway

Volunteer Interpreter

Play worker – mother & toddler groups

Race Relations Equalities Officer –CRC

Specialist Social Worker

Qualified Social Worker
(worked in a range of different teams from generic area teams, to hospital social work, and Emergency Duty Team)

Naveed also served as a Justice of the Peace for many years



I was a PhD student researching the impact of genetic modification on ferns. I had two kids in quick succession & needed support.

It was the 1970's and there were no services for ethnic minorities. So I started volunteering as an interpreter – there were so many people desperate for services and unable to speak English.

Simultaneously, I trained as a play worker & set up the first Asian mother and toddler service in London. It grew from there.

My greatest achievement was setting up an Asian Women's Project for women experiencing domestic violence. This was in 1989, & was the third refuge to open in London.



Naveed has just retired and loves writing poetry

Secrets of success:

- ❖ Keep trying different jobs – variety keeps you fresh.
- ❖ Never rely on financial resources. There is always a creative solution.

The orphans that inspired change

Simona Lovin

Career Pathway

RE Teacher

Degree in Social Work

Working with street children
– Romania

Residential Social Work – UK

Working with young
offenders from Roma/
Romanian travelling families

Behaviour, Education &
Support Team

Sure Start Children's Centre

Child and Adolescent Mental
Health Worker

Mental Health Co-ordinator
(for children in care)

As a teacher in Romania, I taught a class of children from the local orphanage. I was moved by their experiences and wanted to do more to help them.

I qualified as a social worker and started working at an 'emergency centre' for street children. 70 children were housed in two rooms – one for each sex.

Those early experiences have stayed with me, as has my commitment to working with vulnerable children.



Simona is in the back row,
wearing a black scarf

Sources of inspiration:

- ❖ The excellent mentors who have supported me in my career
- ❖ Organising parties and trips fills my life with joy

Poster exhibition compiled, edited and designed by Farrukh Akhtar © 2013

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Beyond Paper Work

- Usha Chauhan



Career Pathway

Went to Art College

Community Work

Civil servant

Qualified as a Social Worker.
I initially worked in a generic team for a number of years, but for the last 20 years, I have specialised in working with children and families.

For the last 6 years, I have been an Independent Reviewing officer for children in care and chair child protection case conferences

After Art College, I did a lot of community work. I fell into social work almost accidentally!

After qualifying as a social worker, I never looked back.

For the last 20 years, I have specialised in working with children and families.

It's important for me to know that I am affecting real change for the children I represent, they know their rights & that are exercised. Tick box social work is for the birds.

What inspires me:

