



# Change

*Reflection, Resistance and Stoicism*

Farrukh Akhtar

*Yesterday I was clever, so I wanted to change the world.*

*Today I am wise, so I am changing myself*

Jalaluddin Rumi

# Space to reflect on

- Social work as a profession in the UK and in England
- Our personal and professional values
- Action we may wish to take
- Top tips from ancient philosophers for modern times

# SW: a fragmented profession nationally (& globally)?

- Impact of devolving legislation
- Devolved professional regulation
- Differing priorities for social work training/ education



# Social Work in England: a divided workforce?

- Fast track v's traditionally qualifying routes
- Segregated strands of 'fast track': C&F; mental health
- Training v's education

*'It could become a profession built on 'know how' rather than 'know why': the essential difference between training and education.'*

Professor Croisdale-Appleby

- Ongoing impact of austerity, of working with lack of resources
- ‘Changing’ thresholds
- Roll-out and accreditation of children’s social workers?



# Moving from cynicism...

- Cynicism as an emotional response to structural change, professional discourse and government rhetoric
- As a means of surviving organisational pressures
- As a reaction to feeling disenfranchised
- As a route to altruism and action

Carey (2014)

- Social workers fight for social injustice IRT service users but move to helplessness or apathy IRT defending their own profession/ rights.
- This goes against
  - social work values
  - professional codes of practice

... to resistance?

*'Professional resistance as a legitimate practice of the profession'*

Thick v's thin resistance

Macropolitics Vs micropolitics

Strier & Bershtling (2016)

# References

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- Strier, R and Bershtling, O (2016) Professional Resistance in Social Work: Counterpractice Assemblages. Social Work, Vol 61, Number 2 April 2016