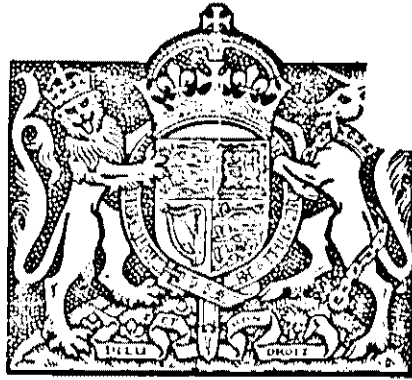


MINISTRY OF HEALTH

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE
ON SOCIAL WORKERS IN
THE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES



MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Report of the Committee
on Social Workers in
the Mental Health
Services

*Presented by the Minister of Health to Parliament
by Command of His Majesty
June 1951*

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Secretary—A. FORBES
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* Appointed by Minute dated 21st October, 1948.

† Appointed by Minute dated 1st October, 1948, in place of Miss C. V. Barclay.

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The estimated cost of the preparation of this Report (including the expenses of the Committee and witnesses) is £207 14s. 1d. of which £144 0s. 0d. represents the estimated cost of printing and publishing this Report.

authorities should ensure that these fully qualified workers devote the fullest measure of their time and skill to the social work for which they have been trained. We suggested too that they should be provided with telephones, suitable office accommodation in a convenient position for their work and, in addition in country districts, with home telephones and cars (Interim Report—Recommendation (ix)).

(8) EMPLOYMENT OF MARRIED WOMEN

There are a number of married women who are psychiatric social workers or have had other training and experience in mental welfare. We know that some authorities are reluctant to make use of part time services, but in view of the present situation in relation to employment, we urge that more use be made of part time workers, especially in teaching and consultant appointments. Further, a number of trained workers who for one reason or another are not at present undertaking mental health work might be attracted back into the service on a part time basis by an offer of appropriate status and salary, and the amenities of car and telephone (Interim Report—Recommendation (i)).

The work of the Committee demanded the examination and sifting of a large amount of written evidence and of documents put forward by institutions and Associations. The Committee wish to record their gratitude to Mr. Forbes for his skilful presentation of material and the able and conscientious manner in which he carried out this service. They wish also to thank Miss Davey for her constant attention to secretarial work.

JAMES M. MACKINTOSH (*Chairman*)
R. M. BATES
SIBYL CLEMENT BROWN
J. B. S. LEWIS
KAY MCDUGALL
JEAN M. MACKENZIE
R. H. PARRY
BRYN ROBERTS
MARGARET J. ROXBURGH
KENNETH SODDY
EILEEN L. YOUNGHUSBAND

A. FORBES (*Secretary*).
24th January, 1951.

APPENDIX I

As an example of the complete "mental health course" we quote below the syllabus of the London School of Economics and Political Science (University of London).

The differences between this and other mental health courses are in detail and not in principle.

THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE
(UNIVERSITY OF LONDON)

THE MENTAL HEALTH COURSE

PURPOSE OF TRAINING

The Mental Health Course (the training for psychiatric social work) was established in 1929 in order to offer a suitable qualification for social workers wishing to take up posts in Child Guidance Clinics and Mental Hospitals. Since this time there has been considerable expansion of the mental health services as a whole, and a corresponding widening of the scope of psychiatric social work.

There is now a steady demand for those holding the Mental Health Certificate to work in co-operation with psychiatrists in various types of clinics and hospitals for the treatment of mental disturbance; the new services in connection with health and education offer wide scope of interesting employment for social workers with this specialised training.

Psychiatric social workers are also in demand in other branches of social service in which there is particular need for the understanding of psychological difficulties; as for example, work with children deprived of normal home life, with delinquents, and with men and women seeking guidance on marital problems.

GENERAL ORGANISATION OF THE TRAINING

The Mental Health Course is a full time one, including academic and practical work undertaken concurrently, and it takes approximately twelve months, beginning in October and ending in September. There is a short vacation at Christmas and Easter, and a break of fourteen days after the examination at the end of June before or during the final period of full time practical work. The training takes place in London, with the optional exception of the period of practical work after the examination. Case work is undertaken at certain practical training centres in the metropolitan area, where the students' programmes are arranged in co-operation with medical and social work supervisors. Visits of observation are paid to various mental hospitals and other institutions for the treatment of mental disorder, mental deficiency and delinquency. The theoretical work of the Course is undertaken at the London School of Economics, and is closely inter-related with the practical work at the training centres. Individual tutorial assistance is provided throughout the Course, there are weekly classes in groups of ten, and lectures on the general topics of psychiatry, psychology, physiology, psychiatric social work, relevant law and administration, and criminology.

SCOPE OF COURSE

Social aspects of the Mental Health Service

An outline of the growth of the mental health services, including the child guidance services, supplying a background against which the present services can be studied. A general survey of the present services, both statutory and voluntary, and of legislation governing mental treatment and the care of mental defectives.

Principles and methods of psychiatric social work

Social case work in the psychiatric field, team work, contribution of social work to diagnosis and treatment, personal and professional relationships involved.

Law and administration relating to children

Outline of the law and administration of the social services for children and their bearing on social work.

The Study and Treatment of Crime

Meaning of crime and methods of study, causal factors, conception, aims and history of punishment; Adult and Juvenile Courts, prison and borstal, probation.

Social Medicine

Social medicine applied to housing, physical health, mental health and industrial diseases.

Physiology (elementary) and Applied Physiology

A general course in physiology is provided as a basis for the more advanced study of the relation of psychiatry to general medicine. The Applied Course includes the physiology of the higher level mental processes and of emotion; the physiology of sex, experimental genetics and application to psychiatry.

Psychiatry and Mental Deficiency

Historical development of psychiatry, its range, the social aspects. The phenomena of mental illness, the individual mental disorders. Nature and classification of mental deficiency, causation and treatment. Place of the social worker in investigation, prevention and treatment.

Child Development

Inter-relation of various aspects of normal development of individual from birth to maturity. Methods of studying psychology of children. Social, emotional and intellectual growth in childhood, middle years and adolescence. Emotional intensity and instability. The role of the environment.

Mental Health and Mental Disorder in Childhood and Adolescence

Child's emotional development and its difficulties, genetic approach, role of parents. Anxiety and mental defences against instinct. Various specific problems in development. Relationship with physical disease.

Psychology of family relationships

Cultural variations in family structure psychologically considered. Analysis of mother-child relationship. Problems of child nurture. Effect of parental character deviations on family life.

Psychology

Courses in General and in Social Psychology are available for those who have not previously covered this ground, or who need revision.

ADMISSION AND FEES

Students are admitted to the Course only on the recommendation of a Selection Committee. This Committee takes into account personal suitability for the profession of psychiatric social work as well as educational qualifications, experience and age. The conditions which candidates are required to fulfil are:—

- (i) Minimum age of 22 years at the time of application. Preference is given to those between 23 and 35.
- (ii) A Degree or Certificate in the social sciences; or other educational qualifications appropriate to social work, supplemented by practical training.
- (iii) Experience of social work.

The fee for the Course is £37 16s. 0d. (or three terminal payments of £13 13s. 0d. each), plus £3 3s. 0d. examination fee. This covers all lectures and examinations, individual tutorial assistance, practical work and demonstrations. It also admits students without further fee to such other lectures given at the School as they may be recommended by their Tutors to attend (except where admission to particular courses is limited for special reasons). It covers all library facilities and membership of the Students' Union. An entrance registration fee is payable by all regular students attending the School for the first time; this fee is:—

| | | |
|---|--------|------------|
| For students applying from overseas | | £2 2s. 0d. |
| For students not applying from overseas | | £1 1s. 0d. |

Entrants whose mother tongue is not English will be expected before acceptance to pass a qualifying examination in that language unless exemption has been obtained from the Tutor. A special examination fee of 10s. 6d. is payable.

Financial Assistance

Maintenance grants are available for students and enquiries about these should be addressed to the school.

APPENDIX II

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR MENTAL HEALTH

Applicants for Community Mental Health Work appointed by the Association between 1945-1948

| AGES: | 20-24 | 25-30 | 31-40 | 41-50 | Over 50 | <i>Total</i> |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---------|--------------|
| | 9 | 41 | 31 | 23 | 4 | 108 |

QUALIFICATIONS:

| | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------------------------|-----|
| Degrees | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 17 |
| Probation Officers | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Social Science Diploma | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 55 |
| S.R.N. | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| Teachers | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| No academic qualifications | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 22 |
| | | | | | | <hr style="width: 100%;"/> | 108 |

WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO THEM:

| | | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------------------------|-----|
| Took Mental Health Course | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 21 |
| Left to take training other than Mental Health Course | | | | | | | 2 |
| Left to take Social Science Diploma | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Went into hospital service | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| Went into Mental Health Department of local authority | | | | | | | 2 |
| Went into other work | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| Advised to take up other work | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| Left because of illness | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| Left on marriage | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| Left for personal reasons | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Left this country | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Not known | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Still on staff of N.A.M.H.... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 49 |
| | | | | | | <hr style="width: 100%;"/> | 108 |

NOTE.—Since the Autumn of 1948 an additional sixteen have taken or are taking Mental Health Courses.

APPENDIX III

List of Witnesses

The following organisations and individuals gave evidence before the Committee:

| <i>Organisation</i> | <i>Represented by</i> |
|---|--|
| Association of Mental Health Workers | Miss O. K. Bowtell Miss S. F. Rogers |
| Association of Psychiatric Social Workers | Miss H. E. Howarth, M.A., A.M.I.A. Miss A. Le Mesurier, B.A. Miss K. M. Lewis, B.A., A.M.I.A. |
| Institute of Almoners | Miss E. M. Gough, A.M.I.A. Miss A. B. Read, A.M.I.A. Miss M. Steel, A.M.I.A. |
| National Association for Mental Health | Miss R. Addis Miss M. Hamilton, B.A. |
| London School of Economics and Political Science (University of London) | Professor T. H. Marshall, C.M.G., M.A. Miss Edith V. Eckhard, M.A. Miss L. A. Shaw, M.A. |
| Royal Medico-Psychological Association | Dr. N. H. M. Burke, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.M., J.P. Dr. Otho W. S. FitzGerald, M.A., M.D., B.Ch., D.P.M. Dr. T. P. Rees, O.B.E., B.Sc., M.D., B.Ch., M.R.C.P., D.P.M. |
| University of Edinburgh ... | Miss Nora Milnes, B.Sc. Miss F. Waldron, B.A. |
| University of Manchester ... | Miss M. Irvine, B.A. |
| Women Public Health Officers' Association | Mrs. M. E. Beck, M.A. Miss E. A. Knox Miss F. E. Lillywhite |

Mr. W. H. Abbott, County Welfare Officer, Northamptonshire County Council.

Dr. Mary Capes, M.B., B.S., D.P.M., Medical Director, Child Guidance Clinic, Southampton.

Mr. H. J. Kotch, Mental Health Officer, Warwickshire County Council.

Professor D. R. MacCalman, M.D., Ch.B., M.R.C.P.E., Nuffield Professor of Psychiatry, University of Leeds.

Mr. S. J. Partridge, County Welfare Officer, East Riding of Yorkshire County Council.

Mr. H. Saunders, Superintendent District Officer, Kent County Council.

The following also submitted memoranda for consideration by the Committee:—

Advisory Committee on Psychiatry—No. 5 Metropolitan Hospital Region.

Association of Mental Health Workers.

Association of Municipal Corporations.

Association of Psychiatric Social Workers and Members of the Association.

British Federation of Social Workers.

County Councils Association.

Family Welfare Association.

Home Office (Probation Branch).

Institute of Almoners.
 London County Council.
 Mental After-Care Association.
 National Assistance Board.
 National Association of Authorised Officers.
 National Association for Mental Health.
 Royal Medico-Psychological Association.
 Socialist Medical Association.
 Birmingham University.
 Bristol University.
 University College, Cardiff.
 Durham University (Newcastle Division).
 Edinburgh University.
 University College of the South West, Exeter.
 University College, Hull.
 Leeds University.
 University College, Leicester.
 Liverpool University.
 Bedford College for Women ... } University
 King's College of Household and Social Science ... } of
 London School of Economics and Political Science } London
 Manchester University.
 Nottingham University.
 Oxford University (Barnet House).
 Reading University.
 Sheffield University.
 University College, Southampton.
 University College, Swansea.
 Mrs. E. M. Braddock, M.P. and Dr. C. M. Vaillant, M.A., M.B., B.Ch.,
 M.R.C.P., D.P.M. (jointly).
 Dame Myra Curtis, D.B.E., M.A., Principal, Newnham College, Cambridge.
 Dr. Gerald Garmany, B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.P., D.P.M., formerly
 Regional Psychiatrist, South West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board.
 Dr. S. W. Hinds, M.D., B.S., M.R.C.P., Lecturer in Preventive and Social
 Medicine, University of Bristol.
 Professor W. Hobson, B.Sc., M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H., Department of Social
 and Industrial Medicine, Sheffield University.
 Miss E. Hunter, B.A., Tutor and Adviser in Social Studies, University of
 London.
 Dr. Colman Kenton, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Regional Psychiatrist, North West
 Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board.
 Professor Aubrey Lewis, M.D., B.S., F.R.C.P., Professor of Psychiatry,
 University of London.
 Dr. Thomas Parr, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.M., formerly Assistant Administrative
 Medical Officer, South Western Regional Hospital Board.
 Mr. H. Saunders, Superintendent District Officer, Kent County Council.
 Mr. C. P. Thomas, B.A., Senior Assistant, University Extension Courses,
 University of London.
 Dr. J. C. Sawle Thomas, M.R.C.P., D.P.M., Regional Psychiatrist, North East
 Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board.
 Dr. R. F. Tredgold, M.A., M.D., B.Ch., D.P.M., Regional Psychiatrist,
 South East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board.

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