

Introducing ...

The Social Worker's Practice Manual

By Neil Thompson

With a Foreword by Professor Mark Doel

Not a textbook, a hands-on manual of practice – a practical guide from one of the UK's most respected social work authors. Divided into thirty sections, each covering a key area of practice, this essential handbook will be invaluable to newly qualified social workers, students on placement and more experienced workers and managers wanting to get the best results.

This is Neil Thompson doing what he does best! – taking complex concepts and making them manageable and accessible to practitioners. Don't be mistaken, however; the word 'manual' is not to be taken as a recipe for the neglect of theory or for acquiescing to the status quo – this is a considered text about the nature and complexity of contemporary practice and social work's potential for making a difference. Highly recommended. **Professor Charlotte Williams, RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia**

I am very pleased to be able to recommend Neil Thompson's new publication. Neil has a great ability to write and talk about complex issues in an accessible way. Here he draws on his many years of teaching, practising and working with social workers to help us better understand the complexity and richness that is social work. His values, knowledge and communication skills shine through. I thoroughly recommend this manual, not only to students and newly qualified social workers, but also to those with much more experience. **Joe Godden, Professional Officer, British Association of Social Workers**

This manual shows Neil's wealth of knowledge and offers a fantastic resource for a broad audience. It is easy to follow, with 'moccasin moments', exercises and reflections. At a time when our profession is stretched and under threat, this reminds us about the breadth of skills, knowledge and values involved; it challenges oversimplification of such core issues as holistic practice, equality, diversity and social justice; and provides a broad range of examples. **Dr Audrey Roulston, Queen's University Belfast**

Neil Thompson weaves his vast treasure of knowledge and experience. Why a 'manual' is tackled squarely; it is not a simple 'how to' instruction book which would, as he argues, be simply reductionist. It is a guided illustration of the rich and living tapestry of social work of which we are all part. His practical focus on human relationships, and dealing with difficulties and complexities in a sustainable way is rooted in values. This will become essential reading for social work students. **Professor Jonathan Parker, Bournemouth University**

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A message from Neil ...

Who's in charge of your learning? Are you leaving it in the hands of trainers, tutors or others or are you in the driving seat for your own learning? It is now well established that the most successful learning is self-directed learning, where you decide (with support where needed) what you are going to learn and how you are going to learn it. That's why I developed the Avenue Professional Development Programme, an online community of learners keen to support one another in taking their learning forward the way they want to. See what the Programme has to offer at www.apdp.org.uk. And NOPT members get access to this at 25% off too! Just £7.50 per month. Contact me at neil@avenueconsulting.co.uk if you have any questions.

PS Are you on Facebook? If so, why not join our group? <http://bit.ly/2FwtKXu>