Twitter Thread by Evidence-based social work alliance

Evidence-based social work alliance
@ebswa

1/ The Evidence-Based Social Work Alliance has written an open letter to the Chief Executives of all four UK social work regulators, CAFCASS and BASW.

A request for policy review and practice guidance

https://t.co/xfISp9y9Vd

EVIDENCE-BASED SOCIAL WORK ALLIANCE

EBSWA

09 Feb 2020

An Open Letter to:

Colum Conway, Chief Executive, Social Work England
Lorraine Gray, Chief Executive, Scottish Social Services Council
Sue Evans, Chief Executive, Social Care Wales
Patricia Higgins, Interim Chief Executive, Northern Ireland Social Care Council
Ruth Allen, Chief Executive, The British Association of Social Workers
Jacky Tiotto, Chief Executive, Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service

Request for policy review and practice guidance

2/ "EBSWA gathers and considers evidence on the questions of sex and gender identity in order to inform professional discussion. We are concerned by the uncritical use of gender identity theory in social work and other professions".

3/ "Of immediate concern is the increasing numbers of children and young people with gender dysphoria who are presenting to the profession. The welfare of gender-dysphoric children is increasingly being discussed within the child-protection context...

4/ "...and yet our attempts to explore alternatives to the affirmation model are being met with accusations of hateful conduct and referrals to our regulator for investigation. We are being silenced in our attempts to understand and discuss the evidence-base approaches to this".

5/ "The recent high-profile Judicial review of the Tavistock and Portman Trust's treatment of Keira Bell...will change the way in which professionals approach this issue. Social work policy and practice must engage and respond in line with these developments".

6/ "It is of deep regret to us that in the past social workers have not always spoken up to safeguard children....We believe that to ensure social workers do not let down our children again we should ask questions of an ideological approach to sex and gender identity".

7/ "We therefore request from you the following:

• A review of policy and update of practice guidance for social workers who are working with gender dysphoric children, their families, and schools.

• To make available the evidence upon which policy and practice are based

8/
• To facilitate respectful and considered debate on the topic of sex and gender identity in social work practice.

• To make clear that threats, bullying and intimidation towards social workers who explore evidence for practice in this field will not be tolerated".

9/ Finally, we remain anonymous because of our concerns as to how social work professionals who question gender identity policy and practice are treated. This is regrettable and we hope that this letter will facilitate a change to a more open and transparent dialogue.

■ @ConwayColum @SocialWorkEng @LorraineSSSC @SSSCnews @SocialCareWales @NI_SCC @ruthallenonline @BASW_UK @JackyTiotto @MyCafcass

We look forward to your response info@ebswa.org