

Social Pedagogy in the UK: network, groups, support and resources (Facebook group and other resources)

What's happening in the UK

England, and the wider UK is a country without a strong social pedagogy tradition in contrast to many other European countries. However, interest has been growing in the UK over the last decade.

An early pilot of social pedagogy in residential care (Bengtsson et al, 2008) produced mixed results, and a substantial research programme in residential children's homes was commissioned by the DfE, the results of which were shared in the 'Raising the bar? Evaluation of the Social Pedagogy Pilot Programme in residential children's homes' report (Berridge et al, 2011).

In 2013 a position statement 'What is Care For?' was developed by the Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS) provided insights about the experiences of local authorities where social pedagogy had been developed.

Some key initiatives

'**Derbyshire Model**', many local authorities have continued to grow and develop social pedagogy programmes, including notably in Derbyshire where the unique approach to Social Pedagogy has become known as 'The Derbyshire Model'.

www.derbyshire.gov.uk/social_health/children_and_families/children_we_look_after/unifi/

Social Pedagogy Development Network. In 2009, the key players in social pedagogy in the UK, including Thempra, Jacaranda Recruitment, the National Centre for Excellence in Residential Child Care and the Centre for Understanding Social Pedagogy helped steer the inauguration of the grassroots-led Social Pedagogy Development Network. The network meets twice a year and aims to provide a point of connection between different developments in social pedagogy. There is also a social pedagogy website. <http://thempra.com/network.htm>

The Fostering Network launched in 2013 its 'Head, Heart and Hands' social pedagogy demonstration programme, with social pedagogy being applied in foster care across 6 sites in England and Scotland. Interest in social pedagogy is flourishing, academic writing, book publication numbers and course development at universities reflective of this. www.fostering.net/head-heart-hands

ThemPra are a social enterprise working to promote social pedagogy as a way of making a big difference to children's lives. Running projects, developing and delivering training and acting as consultants they run the Social Pedagogy Development Network and run network events to help develop practice across the UK and beyond. <http://thempra.com/index.htm>

Jacaranda has been working to support more stable, professional workforces via permanent recruitment of staff. They are passionate about the development of Social Pedagogy recruiting Social Pedagogues and offering training and consultancy. They supported Derbyshire in 2010 when a group of committed and enthusiastic CAYA staff engaged in a programme of learning about social pedagogy, with support from Jacaranda. www.jacaranda-recruitment.co.uk/

Thomas Coram Research Unit (TCRU) has 40 years of research experience in research related to children and young people in and outside their families. This includes care, education, health and social service settings. Our 23 experienced and skilled academics produce key pieces of research and publications in the areas of. They have world leading experts in the areas of early childhood education and care, children's workforce studies, qualitative and cross-national methodologies and have a strong focus on social pedagogy. www.ioe.ac.uk/research/54490.html

Some key resources

International Journal of Social Pedagogy is an online journal which provides a platform for dialogue between theory and practice. It therefore encourages both original contributions about theory and research in social pedagogy and articles that reflect social pedagogical perspectives in practice settings throughout the United Kingdom and globally for all who are involved in social pedagogy. www.internationaljournalofsocialpedagogy.com/index.php?journal=ijsp

ThemPra website has great resources itself and also link to further books, journal articles, media reports, videos, and other online resources that can guide you on your social pedagogy journey. It also included a myth buster and a download section where you can find presentations and hand-outs about social pedagogy. <http://thempra.com/resources.htm>

Social Pedagogy Facebook Group is a closed group which welcomes requested to be invited to join is has a growing membership of people from across Derbyshire and the UK who have an interest in Social Pedagogy and its development in the UK www.facebook.com/groups/socialpedagogy/

Reading List

This initial list is the reading list associated with the Derbyshire University Level 4 Course 'Introduction to Social Pedagogy'. Many of these titles are now available through the DCCC library service. www.derbyshire.gov.uk/leisure/libraries/

ISBN	Title	Author	Publisher
9781853021442	Drama therapy with families, groups and individuals: waiting in the wings	Jennings, Sue	Jessica Kingsley
9781849010986	The compassionate mind: a new approach to life's challenges	Gilbert, Paul	Constable
9781907312472	Out of our minds: learning to be creative	Robinson, Ken	Capstone
9781844453702	Values and ethics in social work practice	Parrott, Lester	Learning Matters
9781905541898	Social Pedagogy in the UK: Theory and Practice	Hatton, Kieron	Russell House Publishing Ltd
9781849051378	Communication skills for working with children: a guide to successful practice using social pedagogy	Petrie, Pat	Jessica Kingsley
9780230250130	Anti-discriminatory practice: equality, diversity and social justice	Thompson, Neil	Palgrave Macmillan
9780333771556	Anti-oppressive social work theory and practice	Dominelli, Lena	Palgrave
9781853028236	The essential groupworker: teaching and learning creative groupwork	Doel, Mark	Jessica Kingsley

9780415131513	Social Action with Children and Families: A Community Development Approach to Child and Family Welfare	Cannan, Crescy	Taylor & Francis Ltd
9781447305385	Practical social pedagogy: theories, values and tools for working with children and young people	Storo, Jan	The Policy Press
9781898924012	Anti-racist work with young people: European experiences and approaches	Aluffi-Pentini, Anna	Russell House
9780415473446	Contemporary theories of learning: learning theorists - in their own words	Illeris, Knud	Routledge
9780749438593	The theory & practice of learning	Jarvis, Peter	Kogan Page
9781849051194	Social pedagogy and working with children: theory and practice	Cameron, Claire	Jessica Kingsley
9781137289254	The study skills handbook	Cottrell, Stella	Palgrave Macmillan
9780140254037	Pedagogy of the oppressed	Freire, Paulo	Penguin
9780470674260	Becoming a reflective practitioner	Johns, Christophe	Wiley-Blackwell
9780415404044	Using the creative arts in therapy and healthcare: a practical introduction	Warren, Bernie	Routledge