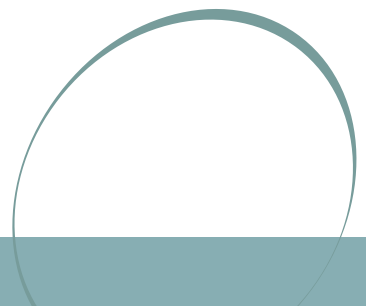


Transforming social work education in the UK

National teaching of communication skills with children and young people has been shaped by research evidence from Sussex, and communications with children have improved as a direct result.

Research at Sussex has significantly influenced the national curricula content of, and entry standards for, social work education in England and Wales. This work has established new guidelines for setting admissions standards for all English social work courses, resulting in the selection and training of better-quality candidates. It has also improved the teaching and learning of communication skills with children and of law in social work programmes and resulted in the development of prize-winning educational resources.



that the law/social work relationship was often strained – students found law learning difficult and curriculum content was variable. These studies led to further research commissions to develop innovative e-learning tools to enhance communication skills (2008) and law learning (2007) and to explore educator capacity to use e-learning resources and their impact on student learning (2011). Two core practice texts on communication with children and young people translated the SCIE study findings for higher education (HE) educators, students and practitioners. In 2009, Lefevre and Taylor were invited by the Care Council for Wales to undertake three linked studies to inform SWE and practice with children in Wales.

In 2008, the first UK exploratory study of its kind for many years examined the relationship between applicants' pre-admission information and their performance on the social work degree. This led the Higher Education Authority (HEA) to commission Holmström to study student selection in social work and inform development of admissions policy in England. The study found limited evidence to support concerns regarding low quality of social work selection processes and training and supported two further HEA commissions to survey admissions practice and write national guidance for social work admissions tutors (2011).