



Jacaranda News

Overview



Jacaranda provides:

- Recruitment of Qualified Social Workers
- Recruitment of Social Pedagogues
- Recruitment of care staff
- Accredited training in Social Pedagogy
- Strategic support for the systemic development of Social Pedagogy
- Field Trips to see "Social Pedagogy in Action" in Europe
- Social Pedagogue students on practical placements

It's our 10th Birthday!

Since 2003, Jacaranda has been developing Social Pedagogy and working to support more stable, professional workforces via the permanent recruitment of staff.



We've seen an impressive increase in the interest in Social Pedagogy. In April 2013 the Association of Directors of Children's Services drew attention to the approach, referring to it as an option for consideration for all work with children in care, as a "consistent and holistic approach".

More organisations have commissioned Social Pedagogy training, with some fantastic outcomes. Catch up inside with some of the latest developments.

Recruitment



We recruit staff for **permanent posts**. This is a decision based on ethics and a belief that the social care workforce should be a predominantly permanent one, for reasons of quality and financial efficacy.

“This was a really positive experience for us. It’s such an excellent way to get to know the people applying for these vital roles with our most vulnerable children and young people. By using this approach we were able to create better opportunities to see the ‘person behind the professional persona’. This enabled us to explore a range of criteria that was far broader and deeper than our traditional approaches to recruitment.”

Staffordshire County Council

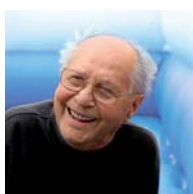
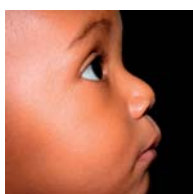


We recruit Social Workers, Social Pedagogues and Care Workers

- Working with Jacaranda to replace agency staff generates savings
- Candidates are from Europe
- We have recruited 75 Social Workers for one local authority...
- ...and 1 Social Worker for one local authority...
- ...no recruitment campaign is too big, or too small

We have recruited Social Pedagogues for:

- The Department for Education Social Pedagogy pilot project
- The Head, Heart, Hands programme led by the Fostering Network
- Staffordshire County Council (case study available)
- The London Borough of Hackney (case study available)
- Many more organisations throughout the UK...



Please contact abby@jacaranda-recruitment.co.uk if you would like us to facilitate contact with referees

The recruitment of Social Workers/Pedagogues from Europe who have a social pedagogic approach to their work, in combination with other measures, is one way of introducing Social Pedagogy to work with children and young people. The ADCS position statement says, “Social Pedagogy is [...] a conceptual model which can be used as a way of thinking and working across complex systems which in turn could help to further integrate local services – from schools, to healthcare, to specialist care provision – with a common outcomes focus.”

ADCS Position Statement “What is Care For: Alternative Models of Care for Adolescents” (April 2013)

Development

Some of our projects

- Jacaranda has facilitated the development of a social pedagogic approach in Derbyshire County Council, in their residential and contract care services. Please contact us to hear more about the outcomes and further development in Derbyshire, including an excellent short video made by staff and young people that provides an insight into a significant Social Pedagogy journey.
- Jacaranda is working with Suffolk County Council in developing Social Pedagogy with staff teams in children's centres and residential homes. Learn more about the benefits to children and young people, families and staff teams. We are happy to facilitate contact with referees.
- Working collaboratively with Professor Pat Petrie and ThemPra Social Pedagogy, Jacaranda is part of the Social Pedagogy Consortium for the Head, Heart, Hands programme, led by the Fostering Network. The programme is introducing Social Pedagogy into foster care. Further details about the programme can be found on the Fostering Network website. Jacaranda is working with Surrey County Council and the London Borough of Hackney, introducing and developing Social Pedagogy in foster care via the recruitment of Social Pedagogues, training and strategic support for systemic development.



SOCIAL PEDAGOGY

Early Adopter Programme

"If you want to be a pedagogue you have to learn to talk with children instead of to them. You have to learn to trust their capacities and possibilities."

Janusz Korczak (1878 – 1942)



Our trainers

Our trainers are all European Social Pedagogues who have lived in the UK and worked in the UK social care system. Our approach emphasises an exploration of current practice, drawing out and working with the strengths of staff teams and organisations. We demystify the concepts of Social Pedagogy, offering interactive trainings that empower participants to develop their practice.

Accredited training

Jacaranda Development offers accredited training in Social Pedagogy (40 credits at Level 4), in partnership with the University of the West of England.

Consultancy

In consultation and in partnership, we identify strategic organisational objectives and pathways to achieve them, planning our work with these goals in mind. We offer a range of options with the goal of developing social pedagogic practice in teams and a social pedagogic ethos within the organisation. Please contact abby@jacaranda-development.co.uk for further details.

Field Trips

We run field trips to Europe to see "Social Pedagogy In Action", visiting a variety of social pedagogic settings. This provides an opportunity to get into dialogue with academics, practitioners and managers and see and experience Social Pedagogy in practice. If you are interested in joining the mailing list for our next field trip, please contact ingolf@jacaranda-development.co.uk.

Social Pedagogy

The identity of Social Pedagogy lies in its values and approaches to work with people. It has developed as a coherent, modern profession over the last 50 years, and as an academic discipline, the theoretical foundation draws from related disciplines throughout the ages. These include: sociology, psychology, philosophy and education. In addition, woven throughout is a lattice of practical and creative activities such as sport, outdoor activities and arts. This does not restrict the application of Social Pedagogy to so-called direct work, but rather prompts us to reconsider our approach to social interaction with service users in all dimensions of work in social care and social work.

As an approach with a humanist value-base, Social Pedagogy offers a coherent way of thinking and working across complex systems. The social pedagogical setting or practice is held within an institutional context, which in turn is part of the wider community and society, including the political context.

Social Pedagogy can be applied in any work setting in which the focus is to support individuals and/or groups. The approach enables staff to support children and adults alike in order to overcome challenging life situations, and social pedagogic leadership supports this work.

The aim is to initiate and support processes of empowerment, the creation of learning opportunities with trajectories to growth and wellbeing. Social Pedagogy simultaneously aims for more inclusive systems of community and society by effecting change within these systems. The Social Pedagogue works in this sense, not exclusively *with* the individuals or groups, but rather *alongside* them, in interaction with them and also acting within and on systems, be they institutional, community and/or societal. In their work, Social Pedagogues use broadly educational means to achieve greater social justice.

Social Pedagogy practice is focussed on purposefully and reflectively building relationship with the service user and realising its potential. The relationship can be strengthened through social (inter-)action, and the Social Pedagogue steers this relationship and common activities in such a way that they result in genuine, positive experiences for the service user. As a result the service user learns and develops.

An important dimension of Social Pedagogy is to empower service users in a democratic way to achieve positive and lasting change. This is well described in the words of Chinese thinker and social philosopher, Confucius (551bc-479bc):

'Tell me and I forget
Show me and I remember
Let me do and I understand'

Jacaranda Development offers work-based training in Social Pedagogy, including accredited learning. We provide bolt-on services that support systemic development, which realise the efficacy of the investment in workforce development. Changes in beliefs and ways of doing do not occur in bubbles, nor solely on the front-line – research and learning theories clearly demonstrate the importance of a systems approach in fostering meaningful practice development.

To find out more about Social Pedagogy and how this approach could be developed within your organisation, contact Abby Ladbrooke on abby@jacaranda-development.co.uk or on 07970 512 386.



Keep in touch! Join in!

www.SocialPedagogyUK.com provides information on Social Pedagogy, updates on events, developments and much more. Explore and sign up for the newsletter.

The Social Pedagogy Development Network is a grassroots movement that meets bi-annually around the UK, allowing people and organisations active in, or interested in, the development of Social Pedagogy to get into dialogue, exchange experiences and learn more. Contact us to find out more.