

Chapter 2: The roles and responsibilities of the social worker

Enabling learning about the scope of one's professional role and its associated responsibilities is never simple especially for new entrants to the profession. In some ways, it takes a life time of practice to fully appreciate the boundaries associated with what one does every day and the subtleties that occur in each encounter.

The chapter provides you with some significant pointers and a mixture of relevant law alongside ethical and moral considerations. The first slide refers to Social Work England. You should explore the development of the agency and its impact on the profession as and when details emerge.

The next two slide set the scene for 'social worker' as a protected title. In local government and other statutory bodies, the need to see the social work task as set by legislation is included. You may wish to explore in more detail the facts and issues emerging from *A v Essex County Council* (2003) since this case really does explore the boundaries of professional responsibility.

Further mention of standards, responsibilities and accountability follows in slides 6,7,8 and 9 before exploring the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970 and s7 in particular, the section under which all regulations for social work is provided.

The remaining 10 slides cover capacity and consent, vital areas of law for social workers. You should consider these slides in conjunction with Chapter 4