



## Can social pedagogy offer a foundation in Scottish society?

### 1. What is social pedagogy?

Social pedagogy is a way of thinking and being in social work practice that can support individuals in achieving their fullest potential. Often described as education in its broadest sense, social pedagogy is an educative approach to upbringing and professional relationships in care and education settings.

It has applicability across a wide range of settings from early years to care for older people. Using social pedagogy enables professionals to work alongside those that they care for to help develop confidence in themselves, competence in communication, self-expression, advocacy and mastery of new skills.

### 2. Why learn about social pedagogy?

Social pedagogy connects care and education through relationship-centred practice. Its central idea is that each person has inherent potential, is valuable, resourceful and can make a meaningful contribution to their wider community if we find ways of including them.

Learning about social pedagogy can have several benefits:

- Social pedagogic principles can support the successful delivery of the Scottish Government's 16 national outcomes.
- Social pedagogy has clear links to improved well-being and workforce practice.
- Attention to the skill and competence of the workforce is pivotal. If social pedagogy was a recognised and accredited qualification in Scotland it has the potential to bring cohesion and collaboration across services.

### 3. Social pedagogy in Scotland

As a relationship-based philosophy to social care across all age groups, social pedagogy is historically embedded in public policy and provision across Scotland and can support the successful delivery of the Government's 16 national outcomes.

A number of organisations across Scotland commit to a social pedagogic ethos, including Camphill Scotland, Children in Scotland and Kibble Education and Care Centre.

In 2013, the Scottish Government funded a pilot project in Camphill Scotland to pilot the use of social pedagogy in supporting young people and adults with learning disabilities. The pilot was evaluated by a team from the University of Edinburgh, who found that the introduction of social pedagogy had a 'transformative' effect on practitioners, increasing their confidence, both in practice and in developing relationships with colleagues and service-users.

Find out more about this pilot and the impact it had on practitioners and service-users through Camphill Scotland's video linked below:



#### 4. 'The benefits of social pedagogy and its practice in Scotland'

The [Social Pedagogy Professional Association](#) is hosting a reception at the Scottish Parliament to highlight 'the benefits of social pedagogy and its practice in Scotland'. The reception is being sponsored by Kezia Dugdale MSP, convenor of the Scottish Parliament Cross Party Group on Children and Young People and will be hosted within the Robert Burns Room at the Scottish Parliament on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2018 from 6 – 8pm.

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