

# What is a Principal Social Worker (PSW)

- ▶ PSWs are now a statutory requirement and referenced in the 2016 revised Care Act guidance. However, the role of PSWs varies across local authorities.
- ▶ There are some fundamental role descriptors which should be included in the job role for every PSW. These are located within the Role and Responsibilities: Adult Principal Social Worker (PSW) which can be located on [www.gov.uk/dhsc](http://www.gov.uk/dhsc)
- ▶ The PSW role is there to ensure that there is professional practice oversight in place to lead, oversee, support, and develop excellent social work practice, and in turn lead the development of excellent Social Workers and social care practitioners.

# What does this mean for WCC

- ▶ The PSW role within Worcestershire is a dedicated role and will be part of the senior management team
- ▶ Work with Social Work Academy, Learning and development, frontline staff, senior management, director, cabinet members, local and national networks, keystakeholders to develop practice across adult social care.
- ▶ Oversee quality assurance and improvement of social work practice. Taking a lead on quality assurance in social work practice and continued development of best practice, ensuring we are CQC ready
- ▶ The PSW is expected to influence decision making and service delivery at a senior management level, providing challenge where necessary, in partnership with The Director and Cabinet Member with responsibility for Adult Social Care.

# Some of the work the PSW is currently involved in

- ▶ Visiting teams reflective sessions and attending events such as Lets Talk sessions to hear directly from staff their opinions and ideas.
- ▶ Meeting with local and national networks
- ▶ Co-production project - building together forum
- ▶ Policies and Practice Guidance project
- ▶ Learning needs analysis