

Social Pedagogy Charter

A charter brings together our values and aspirations in a single, accessible document, which can serve to remind us of what we have agreed to commit to as Social Pedagogues or Social Pedagogy Practitioners.

The Charter can be used as a way of introducing newcomers to our profession and as the basis for continuing inquiry into our values and beliefs. The statements that follow will be a reference point for all practitioners in the field and apply to working with individuals, families, groups and communities within their social-political contexts. The charter will be reviewed on a regular basis.

1. We consider ethics and social justice to be the foundation for practice
2. We believe in the importance of engaging with others and the world of which we are a part in ways that are congruent with our values and beliefs (*Haltung*) and informed by theory
3. We value the capacity of all to foster compassion, community, love, care and empathy
4. We believe in walking alongside others, recognising their uniqueness and, with them, co-creating meaning and purpose
5. We understand the value of our participation in everyday activities as a basis for creating human connection, enhancing a person's sense of well-being and quality of life
6. We endeavour to develop authentic and reliable relationships
7. We believe in relationship-centred practice that recognises and engages with the whole person and the networks, systems and communities that impact upon their lives
8. We value creative and playful approaches to lifelong learning that are theoretically informed, risk sensible and draw on people's potential
9. We value professional curiosity in our work with every individual, group and family
10. We use theory, critical reflection and self-awareness to inform practice
11. We value team work, mutual aid and collaboration with others
12. We strive to bring about positive change for individuals, groups and families and communities, built on an understanding that practice is affected by political, social and cultural contexts as well as by individual differences
13. We believe in the social and political agency of individuals and groups to make significant choices about their lives and to contribute to their community

This is the value base that informs Social Pedagogy in practice in the UK.

Social Pedagogy Standards

<p>Philosophy and Haltung</p> <p><i>These threshold standards address the philosophy underpinning of Social Pedagogy and the Haltung we expect Social Pedagogy Practitioners and Social Pedagogues to develop and maintain in their practice. These standards should be held in a person's heart and guide their way of living and working.</i></p> <p>As a Social Pedagogy Practitioner / Social Pedagogue, I agree to:</p>	<p>Practice</p> <p><i>These standards represent the threshold level of practice for Social Pedagogy Practitioners and Social Pedagogues. We expect their employing organisations to provide a working culture and support that enables Social Pedagogy Practitioners and Social Pedagogues to apply these standards within their practice.</i></p> <p>As a Social Pedagogy Practitioner / Social Pedagogue, I agree to:</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop and nurture an attitude of empathy and unconditional positive regard for people and cultures and the world of which we are a part 2. Foster relationships that respect human dignity and promote human rights, mutuality and well-being 3. Recognise the inherent resourcefulness and potential of human beings to bring about change 4. Appreciate that human relationships, in all their complexity, are intrinsically valuable and therefore central to Social Pedagogy 5. Enable people to use their voices and effect change within their own lives and wider society 6. Understand and work with the tensions inherent in valuing individual autonomy and social interdependence 7. Engage with social and political aspects of human development, childhood and community 8. Develop an attitude of professional curiosity and critical self-reflection 9. Be open to and informed of new theory, research and good practice relevant to social pedagogical practice 10. Use situated professional judgment and maintain appropriate confidentiality 11. Understand issues relating to the protection of vulnerable individuals, groups and communities and address social inequalities 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Engage with others in ways that respect their equal value and human dignity, understanding the part played by personal communication that supports this 2. Make decisions with a high degree of situation awareness, recognising the complex factors involved in different circumstances 3. Recognise and respect that personal histories, characteristics and social and political contexts have brought each person and group to their current understanding of the world 4. Invite, consider and integrate multiple perspectives in decision making as a means of deepening social justice, community and well-being 5. Create opportunities and contexts for people to actively participate in society, express their own views and listen to those of others 6. Hold my relationship with the people I work with and support in the foreground in all my practice 7. Value the opportunities that everyday activities provide for developing relationships 8. Facilitate learning processes that enhance well-being and enable individuals to find meaning and purpose in their everyday lives 9. Work collaboratively and be willing to both support and challenge colleagues 10. Use theory and research in my everyday practice

12. Recognise the value of creativity, playfulness and adventure
13. Be accountable for my practice, engage in meaning-making and know when to seek advice

11. Support the individuals, groups and communities I work with to realise their hopes and aspirations by identifying, with them, the steps required to meet their goals
12. Adapt my practice to take account of the physical, intellectual, emotional, spiritual, social and cultural needs and strengths of individuals, groups and communities, in keeping with the principles of social pedagogy
13. Practice safely and competently within the legal and ethical boundaries of my profession
14. Take into account relevant social policy and at the same time bringing critical awareness to any tensions existing between our values and such policies.
15. Support community development by encouraging networking and connections through participatory processes that draw on the community's resourcefulness.
16. Promote inter-professional dialogue and co-operation across settings and agencies.