



The British Association of Social Workers (BASW) is the professional association for social work in the UK with offices in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. With over 22,000 members we exist to promote the best possible social work services for all people who may need them, while also securing the well-being of social workers working in all health and social care settings.

The Social Workers Union (SWU) is the only trade union to offer representation by qualified social workers who understand the complexities of the profession. With officers working across the UK, SWU provides representation at internal hearings for disciplinary and grievance procedures, and employer investigations into practice and misconduct allegations.

This is a joint consultation response from both organisations prepared by the BASW England team and the BASW/SWU Advice and Representation service (A&R). We are pleased to respond to Social Work England's consultation on the new education and training approval standards for best interests assessors (BIA) on behalf of our members.

Question 1

To what extent do you agree that the standards accurately reflect the requirements of the role of best interests assessor (BIA)?

Reference to demonstrating a commitment to anti-racist, anti-discriminatory and anti-oppressive

Currency will proof of undertaking a refresher course annually be a mandatory requirement for currency and to maintain annotation on the register as a BIA with relevant regulator?

Recognition that not everyone that wishes to undertake the training to become a BIA will work for a Local Authority or in health.

Members of BASW who are independent social workers and BIA s generally work for several local authorities and value the autonomy and flexibility that being self-employed brings.

Existing problems in recruitment and retention of social workers also needs to be borne in mind if " @ " @ recruited from?

Overall, it reads as this is an essential proposal to assure that standards of education in BIA are maintained in the short-term until LPS / role of AMCA is put in place.

Question 7

Do you think that these standards could impact any persons with a protected characteristic? If so, is it positively, or negatively, and how? The Equality Act (2010) lists 9 protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership and pregnancy and maternity.

Only positively: inclusion of recognition of people with lived experience as being essential in measuring impact and the statements on equality, diversity and inclusion are much needed.

Question 8