

**Tavistock Policy Seminars**  
*connecting public policy and human relationships*

**Reflective Social Work Practice**  
*How it works, how it helps, does it?*

**Date:** Thursday March 28<sup>th</sup> 2019, 6.00-8.30 pm

**Venue:** 5th Floor Lecture Theatre, Tavistock Centre, 120 Belsize Lane, London NW3 5BA

**There is widespread practitioner and organisational interest in the potential of ‘reflective practice’ to improve performance, staff resilience, and outcomes for social care service users of all kinds. Recently a number of local authorities have remodelled their services on a ‘relationship based’ approach, with support for reflective practice groups at the heart of this. But how exactly does reflective practice work, and do we have evidence for its benefits at organisational and frontline operational level?**

**In a period of extreme resource pressures might a focus on reflective practice be little more than a sticking plaster to prop up a workforce that is burning out, or are reflective forums a ‘space of hope’ holding the promise of a real and effective alternative to the performance driven and survivalist culture that pervades so many services?**

In this seminar speakers who have been at the forefront of researching reflective social work practice, implementing it in frontline organisational settings, and promoting its development through leadership and writing will offer concise and informative perspectives on their work. This will be followed by an open and reflective audience dialogue to which the speakers will respond at the end.

**Speakers**

Tom Stibbs, Principal Social Worker, Brighton & Hove Children’s services

Amanda Lees, Researcher, University of Winchester

Sylvia Smith, Independent Consultant and Lecturer, the Tavistock Centre

Anna Harvey, Senior Lecturer, the Tavistock Centre and Independent Consultant

Andrew Cooper, Professor of Social Work, Tavistock Centre and UEL

**Chair:** Frank Lowe, Consultant social worker, Tavistock Centre