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Appendix 126

Patricia

K111

TMA 02

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Assignment Handling Office

Date

7/6

Question Grades/Scores

Overall
Grade/Score

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20

67

TUTOR'S GENERAL SUMMARY

1 - It is clear from this TMA that you have worked hard to produce an essay that is honest, reflective, and thought provoking. It plans well and follows a structure as laid out in the guidance. The case example is a very powerful one to select, and you explore it in a very relevant way - well done for that.

2 The strong point of the essay particularly was the way in which the reader could follow the links between personal & professional. I also felt that you made a good general use of course material.

3 I think it is worth reflecting upon the way in which this case helped you to effectively step into the service user's shoes in some ways - not completely of course, but showed worries about the future, plans to be completed etc. clearly struck a chord with you and perhaps you are looking @ how you have developed a way of coping with fears that we all have to some degree in a more conscious way. Remember that looking @ change implies saying where you were at before the situation arose - that would be useful to comment upon in the future in relation to writing about personal development.

4 The essay could have done with more on 'problematic' elements of values towards the end.

It is all very powerful read

Well done

P.I. Number

K111 TMA02 – From personal values to professional values, from past experiences to Present practice

-describe how your previous practice experience has affected your personal values and the ways in which they have changed in response to that experience

-describe your current understanding of professional social work values and how you have arrived at this understanding. Outline those issues which you find problematic and want to work on during your present placement

-illustrate your answer with examples from your previous and present practice

Introduction

i A value framework provides the backdrop against which individuals live their lives. 1
The parameters of such a framework will depend largely upon individual experiences and reflections. Values inform action by enabling individuals to differentiate between right and wrong. They are not inherent, but evolve over time as a result of the influence of personalities and biographies. Personal values are challenged by daily life. The resulting ethical dilemmas task our abilities as problem solvers both at work and at home.

10 The issue of whether personal values can be affected by social work practice is problematic. A reluctance to admit to being challenged by practice can arise out of concern that such an admission may give the impression that the worker has become 10
over involved with the service user; or that involvement has highlighted inadequacies in the worker or that the position of the professional has in some way been undermined.

Part One

Identifying my own personal values in relation to this assignment has been an emotionally challenging experience. Largely because I have recognised that whilst I do have a strong value base that has evolved through my own personal development (background, education and my work experiences etc.) there are at times difficulties in its application. To illustrate this point I have included this example. My partner and I disagree on the subject of East Enders. I believe that its storylines of rape, 20
prostitution and violence make it unsuitable viewing for our two daughters aged 11 and 7. My values inform me that as a responsible parent I should be protecting my children from the potentially damaging effects of an exposure to abusive and 20

2.

1 oppressive materials/situations. My partner believes that turning over the channel or turning off the TV. is taking my point too far and if the programme is shown before 9pm 'someone' in authority must consider it suitable viewing for children. For me to uphold my values in this situation means certain conflict and upset. If I acquiesce to avoid the conflict then I must accept that my values have been compromised.

10 I have recently been working with a 47-year-old service user called Ann N. Ann is single, an employee of the City Council, owns her own home and had looked forward to a fulfilling life. This changed twelve months ago when Ann was diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumour. Ann's life expectancy was approximated at 1 year and she was admitted to hospital almost to the day, having experienced mobility difficulties at home. This was an indication that the disease had spread and Ann was considered to have palliative needs. It was at this point that I was introduced to Ann. There has been so much in terms of my involvement with Ann over the past eight weeks that I feel has affected me deeply. In particular, Ann's fight for independence, to have some control over the decision making process and retain her privacy have been key issues with which I have identified. The pace and extent of my involvement with Ann has been dictated by Ann's rapidly deteriorating physical health and her wish to return home to die. The decision Ann made was based on her own value framework which prioritised the right to make her own decisions in the first instance, her right to 20 privacy and recognised her age and social expectations. I identified a link between my own personal experience given in the example with my family, and the dilemma Ann faces in sticking to her resolve. The alternative is for Ann to acquiesce and accept a nursing home placement, which to her family and health professionals involved in her care represents the most easiest and seamless discharge from hospital.

✓
A very powerful case to select

30 I have worked in partnership with Ann to gain her trust and to advocate on her behalf as she has tried to assimilate so much distressing information and navigate her way through unfathomable depths of loss - loss of independence, of dignity, of credibility and ultimately of life itself. I reflect that the strength of my support for Ann is largely a result of the empathy I feel for her as she attempts to protect her values from being compromised. The positive identity, with which Ann was admitted to hospital, is being systematically undermined by the inference that she is unreasonable, unrealistic and difficult, basically because she has refused to conform. Individuals "who are perceived as 'difficult' appear to find it hard to take advantage of the opportunities for choice" (K100 Block 3 p.43). In this instance Ann is both being labelled, and being discouraged from making an informed choice about where she feels her future care needs should be met. 30

good use of 'or' material

40 I have always valued the protection of my privacy in its broadest sense by being selective about the information I have shared with others. However, I have recognised through the work I have undertaken with Ann the need to formalise this more clearly for myself for the future. Ann's home is exactly as she left it on the day she was admitted to hospital. She has not had the opportunity to return home to sort out her belongings or to dispose of memorabilia etc that she would prefer to remain secret

have a look @ second subai & p2 - how has this changed now? Are you happier with the situation now?

3.

- even after her death. There have also been questions raised about Ann's competency in decision-making given the progressive nature of her illness. These are all issues with which I identify and I have during the past six weeks taken significant steps to protect both my personal privacy and my family should I ever be diagnosed with a life limiting illness or meet an untimely death. I have made a will, identified potential guardians for my children, shared with a close friend the location of private documentation, identified a responsible person who is prepared to have Power of Attorney should it ever be necessary and I have disposed of anything incriminating! I feel that my involvement with Ann has given me a focus in terms of my own values.
- 10 To help Ann to resolve some of the internal struggles she has faced in respect of her impending death, it has been necessary for me to explore some of my own anxieties in terms of my own morbidity. ✓ a clear link It would be worth saying a little more about how you see them now? Has privacy become more important - seems so, and worth looking @ what this meant before the car happened?

Part Two

Professional social work values are "a set of fundamental moral/ethical principles to which social workers are/should be committed" (Banks, 1995 quoted in Intro to Part A p.18) Social work values inform practice and guide action. Howe, (1999 *ibid*) identifies two distinct types of values, "intrinsic" and "instrumental", whilst Black (1996 *ibid*) suggests that social work practice is a mixture of these values which are both good in themselves but are directly linked to results. ✓

- My current understanding of social work values has developed without the benefit of a formal framework. I arrived on my first day in an adult social work team ten years ago and was assigned a colleague to 'show me the ropes'. There was no procedures manual and no instructions on how to undertake an assessment. Shardlow (Set book p.24) poses the question "How should social workers behave towards their clients?" Indeed an interesting question and not one explored with me during my initial induction programme - I behaved towards the service users in a way, which reflected the rather general value statement of 'treating others as I would want to be treated myself'. In so doing I was able to see that service users were responding to me and I was in a sense achieving results. I considered this to be a good foundation, which was subsequently reinforced in supervision and built on in practice. ✓ good overview.
- 30 I remember with some dismay an assessment visit I undertook, several months after I had been in post, during which I asked an elderly service user if she thought that she would benefit from the services of a chiropodist. She removed the travel rug from her lap to reveal that both legs had been amputated! I was horrified that I had unwittingly been so insensitive- her humour at my embarrassment saved the day. I reflect from my experience that my general value statement whilst important did not stretch quite far enough. ✓
- I deduce that my understanding of social work values have developed over time as I have witnessed the good and not so good practice of my colleagues and managers. I have taken from situations those elements of practice, from which I feel I have

4.

I learned and challenged practice which I believe has been detrimental to service users/carers. Most recently I have spent some time at a Hospice familiarising myself with the role of the social worker in this particular setting- the social worker spoke of death and dying as 'a journey' of 'death being part of life' and of preparing for a 'good death'. These were ideas that I had not previously explored either personally or in practice. However I felt that I could build on this in my placement with the Palliative Care Specialist Team in the hospital. I have had opportunity to develop these themes both in my involvement with Ann N. (noted above) and also for myself as I am coming to terms with the death of my Godmother just 3 weeks ago.

well noted.

- 10 Shardlow (Set book p.23) notes that "values and ethics slither through our fingers for a variety of reasons; we don't try hard enough to catch them, preferring the practical business of social work." This indeed has been my experience to date, but I recognise the need for me to change my approach and have made a conscious effort within my placement to do so.

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- 20 With that in mind I will continue to use the example of Ann N., to identify a developing awareness and understanding of social work values in my practice. Death and dying have always evoked great emotion and distress for me - I knew that to work successfully and effectively in palliative care I would have to identify and question my own values in relation to death and dying and to recognise what influence my own fears would have on my practice. In so doing I have been better equipped to assist Ann and to promote her right to return home to die. I have upheld her request however complex and difficult to arrange it may be. I have respected that Ann is able to make decisions and retain control. However, it has been necessary for me to explore with Ann some of the potential implications of the decisions she is making- Ann's insistence that she will not have a bed brought downstairs, despite not being able to climb the stairs is proving problematic. If Ann sleeps in a chair she will run the risk of swollen and painful legs - she has been made aware of the risk but feels that it is a risk worth taking. I have acknowledged the limitations of my role. I have sought to value the contributions of her family and friends, to avoid alienating them, however confrontational and sabotaging of my efforts, in order that they remain supportive of Ann. I believe that I have managed the complexities of competing rights and demands well by the example of arranging a case discussion, which I 'chaired' in order to give everyone the opportunity to share their anxieties and fears, both with me and most importantly with Ann. This also gave Ann an opportunity for discussion on 'her terms' and proved a healthy and productive debate.

nice 20 summary of your + own values.

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- 40 The twelve principles of social work practice (Intro to Part A p.11) represent an example of thinking on ethical principles in practice. In addition to the six main social work values as described in the course materials, the principles provide a means of measuring or standardising practice, of offering the social worker the tools with which to do the job. Although often applied retrospectively this provides a mechanism for ensuring that service users can expect best value and continuity in the

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- 1 service they receive from social work staff. The introduction of the General Social
Care Council (Intro to Part A p.10) will further regulate social work and raise its
professionalism. I feel that I have made some progress in raising my own
professionalism by making every effort to embrace the concept of social work values,
5 and promote them in my practice. 5

Word count 2040

Well done - I felt that this was an
honest, energetic & thoughtful essay that covered
relevant ground in a structured way.