



[Your address
Postcode]

[Name of the media outlet or publication

Attention:

Address 1

Address 2

Address 3

Postcode:]

[Date]

Dear Editor,

While every newspaper and media outlet seems happy to accuse social workers when a high profile child death or adult social care scandal hits the headlines, I am concerned at the small amount of positive coverage given to the often life-saving work social workers do every day.

In my own area alone I can point to numerous instances of social workers making a real difference to people's lives, such aswho did....

But every day it becomes more difficult to achieve change in people's lives. Social workers face average caseloads of over 30 (the recommended average is between 12 and 15). This situation is only likely to worsen as demand grows on the back of wide-sweeping budget and welfare cuts and an ageing population.

This is exacerbated by the poor supervision often supplied by social work employers and increased levels of violence by service users. The toll it is taking is clear. One in 10 social work posts are now vacant and 80% of social workers are feeling too stressed to be able to do their jobs properly*.

We/I want to stand up for social work and we urge everyone reading this to do one small action to stand up for social work as well.

It might be:

- Saying thank you to a social worker
- Asking a social worker how they are
- Making a cup of tea for a social worker
- Asking what they did today or why they became a social worker
- Understanding what social workers do (visit www.communitycare.co.uk/standupforsocialwork)
- Commenting on newspaper articles in support of social workers
- Questioning your MP or local councillor about the state of social work in your local area and the support given to enable them to do their jobs properly.

Without social workers the most vulnerable people in our society - children, the disabled, the elderly, the mentally ill - would have no one to protect them or to help them live safely, independently and with dignity.

While there will always be some failures, the number will be greatly reduced if social workers are supported, helped and protected. Our duty to support social workers should be as great as the duty on social workers to protect and care for the vulnerable.

Sincerely,

[Your signature

Your name

Your title

Your organisation]

*Community Care surveys; November 2014 and January 2015.