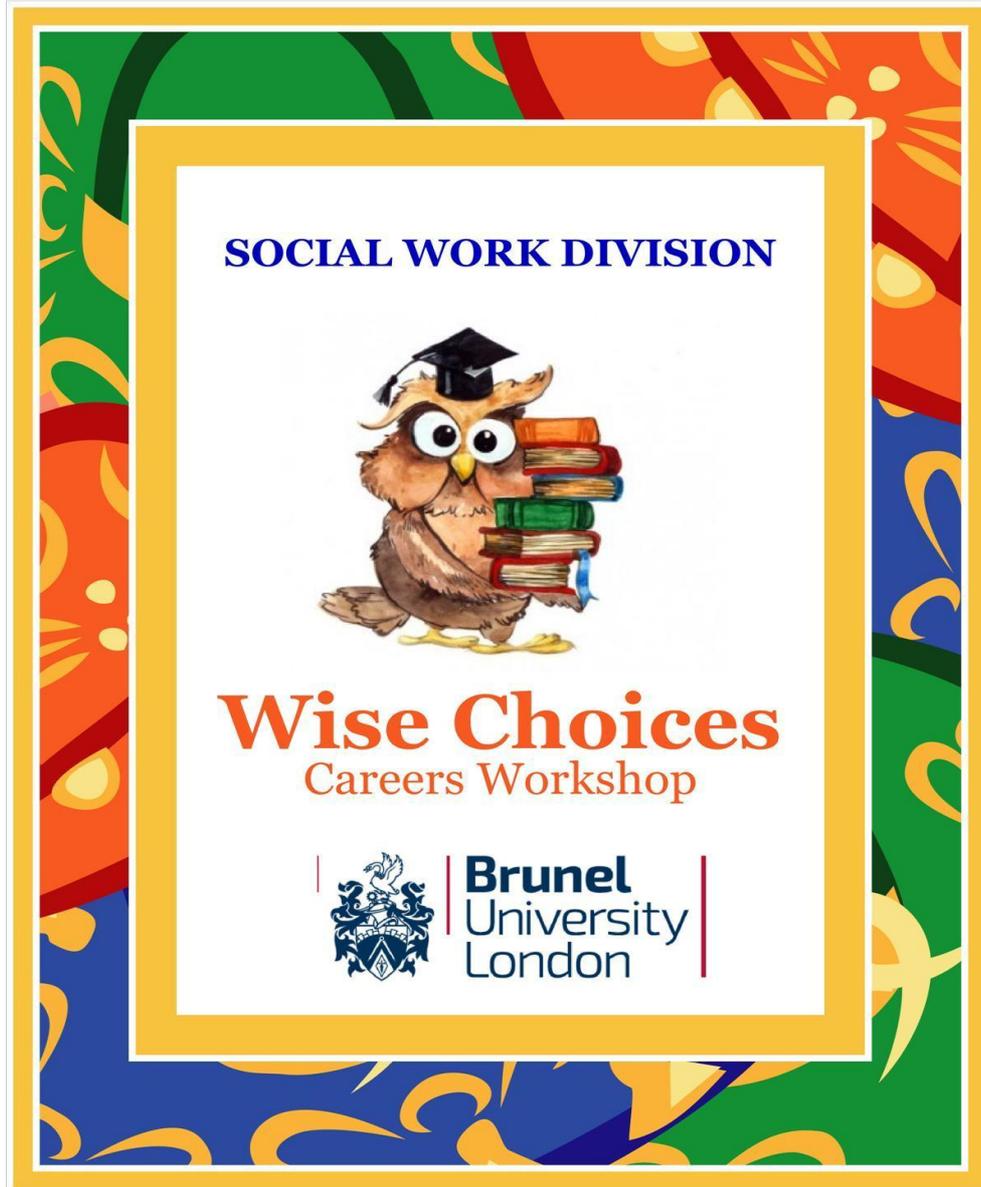




SOCIAL WORK 'WISE CHOICES' CAREERS WORKSHOP



Saturday 12 March 2016

A Brief Report

The Social Work Programme Team organized its annual 'Wise Choices' Careers Workshop on Saturday 12 March 2016. This event is aimed at providing current final year BA & MA social work students with key knowledge and practical skills relating to:

- Employability, Successful Job Preparation and Interviewing
- ASYE and KSS
- Meet Inspiring practitioners who reflect on their professional trajectories
- Meet an Expert Panel of Social Work Alumni

This was an excellent event and was well attended with a total of 29 participants. Many thanks to our organizing committee for helping with the poster, setting up the workshop and of course the excellent lunch!



Job Interview Preparation

Christel Thames from the Brunel Careers Office provided an informative session to our current final year students on how best to prepare for applying for a job, developing CVs and covering letters, ways to 'sell yourself' to your employer and stand out from the crowd. Critical discussion also followed around the competitive environment around social work applications especially with the 'fast-track courses' such as Step Up and Front-Line competing for jobs alongside BSW and MSW. Main points to take away: be prepared, be passionate about your career and be yourself!



'Speed-Dating' Style Interviewing Practice

Our students enjoyed putting their interviewing skills to test, in a 'speed-dating' style group exercise where they were interviewed by staff, practitioners and each other!



ASYE

Alka Moonga, an ASYE practice educator, a lecturer and PEP assessor delivered an excellent presentation about the new KSS framework as well as the ASYE evaluation frameworks for Adults and Children & Families developed by Skills for Care.



Award Winning and Inspiring Social workers

One of the highlights of the day was a series of presentations from leading and award winning social workers. The first to present was Joy Manley, winner of the Children's Social Worker of the Year Gold Award for 2015 shared with students her insights from being a social work practitioner for more than 35 years. Joy currently continues work for CAFCAS and continues supporting families.

Joy was followed by Claire Mullarkey, who graduated from the MA social work program at Brunel in Sept 2014. Claire currently works as part of the Multi-Agency Support Team, Ealing; She is the 2015 winner of the Social Work of the Year Silver Award in the NQSW category.

To end the day we heard from Dr. Mike Thomas, who also graduated from the MA social work a few years ago and is currently a lecturer in social work at the University of Kent.



In the photo, from the left to the right: Claire Mullarkey, Mike Thomas, Alka Moonga and Joy Manley

Feedback from of Participants

