

**This poem was written by a mental health service user who is taking part in this project:**

**WHAT MAKES A GOOD SOCIAL WORKER?**

What makes a good social worker?

One who listens it is true  
And if you have to go to hospital  
One who visits you.

A social worker too  
Is one who respects your shared humanity  
And knows just how to steer your course  
If you're bordering on insanity

One who can deal with someone say,  
With a history of schizophrenia,  
One who doesn't stigmatise  
Discriminate, or demean "ya"

One who can read between the lines  
And understand sometimes without things being said  
By body language, eye contact or mood  
To know what's happening in your head.

I know that this is difficult  
But with practice I'm sure you'll get it to a tee  
And so be helpful to the sufferers  
Checking care plans regularly

One who has a sense of humour  
One on whom can be depended  
One who sticks by the service user  
'Til the crises are all ended

One who can survive a lot of pressure  
Even if a thank you is belated  
One who shares biscuit, cake and brew  
And sometimes doesn't feel appreciated

One who can listen  
As their clients share their news  
Always focussed, always caring,  
Always making brews

One who works with healthcare staff  
GPs CPNs and Shrinkers  
And working with this team  
Maintains necessary links