General Social Care Council

Regulating Social Workers – The Way Forward

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Crisis is opportunity

- Crisis = opportunity for change
- Social Work Task Force's 15 recommendations being implemented by the Social Work Reform Board
- Lord Laming's progress report /Eileen Munro review
- Opportunity for generational change

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Safe Landings

- GSCC's regulatory powers to transfer to Health Professions Council next year.
- Some functions won't transfer to HPC– we need safe landings for all our work
- HPC/HCPC regulate 15 professions; 200,000 registrants
- A different model of regulation. Issues to resolve, eg
  - student registration
  - Assessed and Supported Year in Employment
  - Post qualifying training

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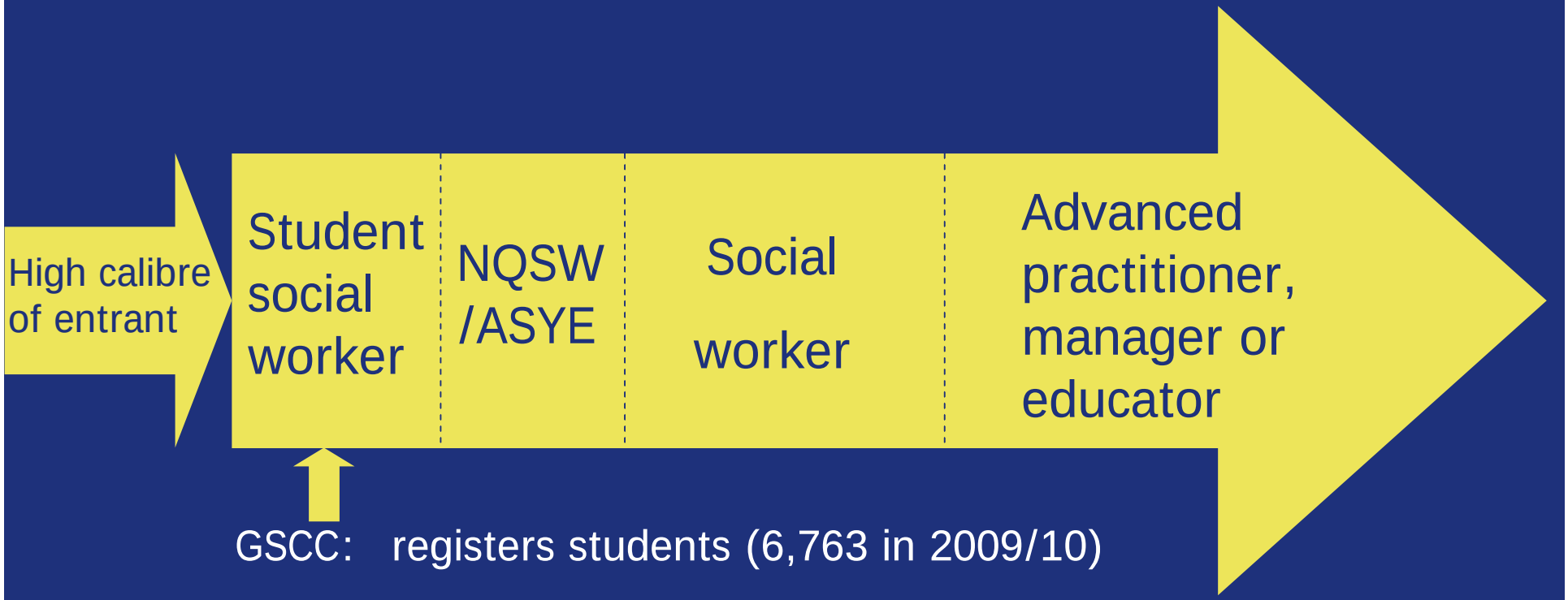
The social worker journey



GSCC: registers students (6,763 in 2009/10)

inspects universities and approves courses

provides grants for practice placements

influences quality of placements through inspection

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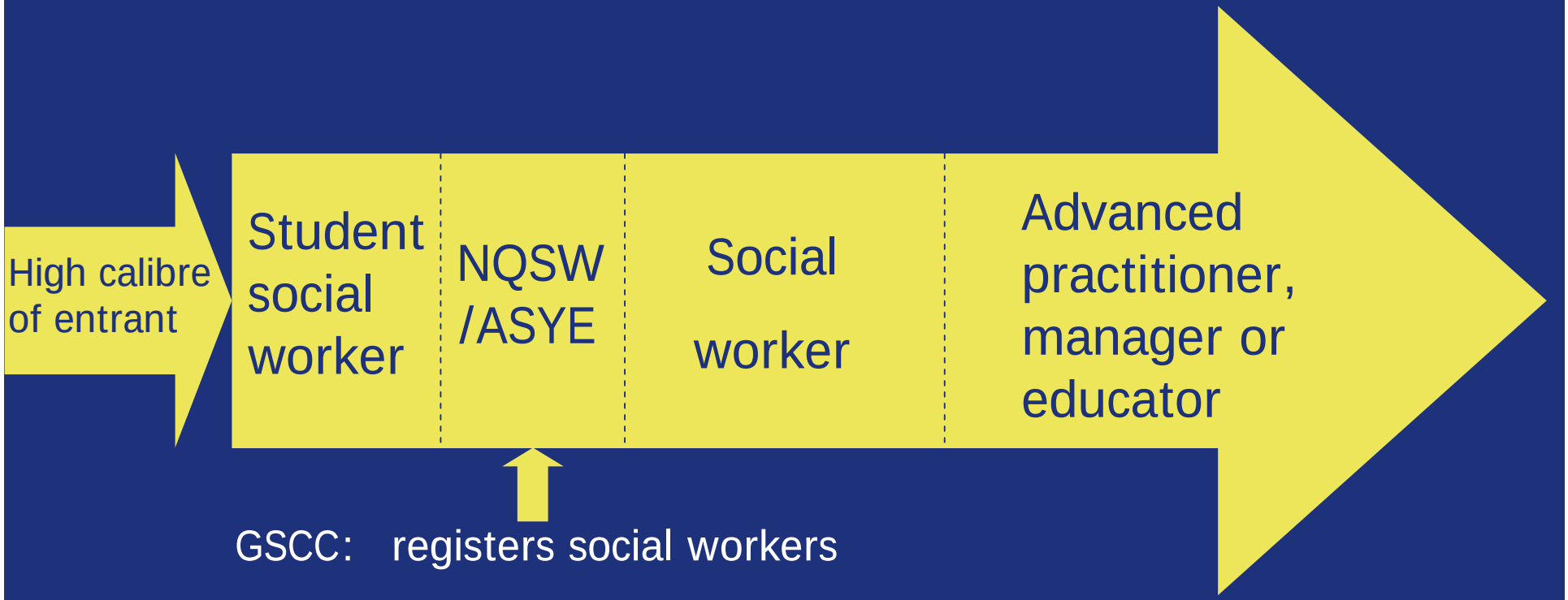
The social worker journey



GSCC: registers social workers

approves internationally qualified

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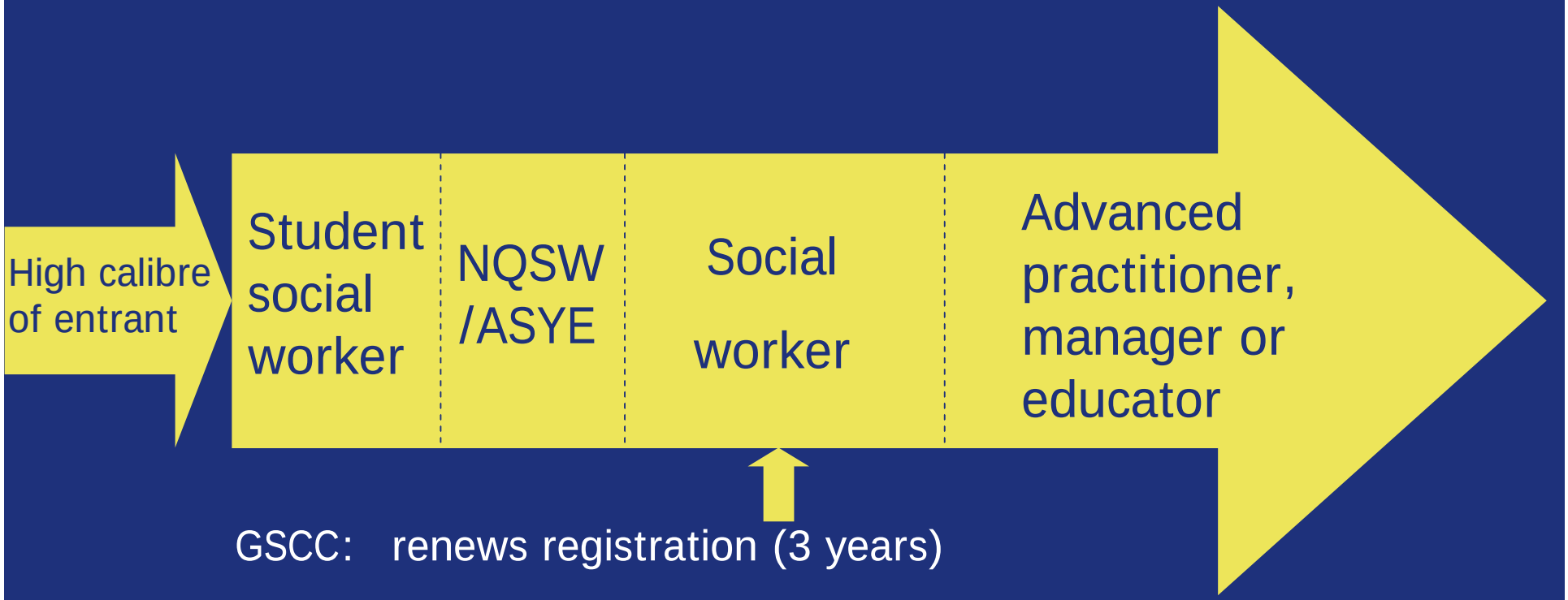
The social worker journey



GSCC: renews registration (3 years)

requires demonstration of CPD

holds social workers to account through code of practice

(122 hearings in 2010/11 to date)

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The social worker journey

GSCC: approves post-qualification awards

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The future of SW regulation

- When we disappear, the Reform Board's ambitions should not be jeopardised
- Professional Capabilities Framework (PCF)
- HPC's 15 generic Standards of Proficiency defined further by profession specific standards.
- The sector is working with HPC to define these and ensure they map with PCF.
- Timetable: Jan- April 2011; consultation July- Nov

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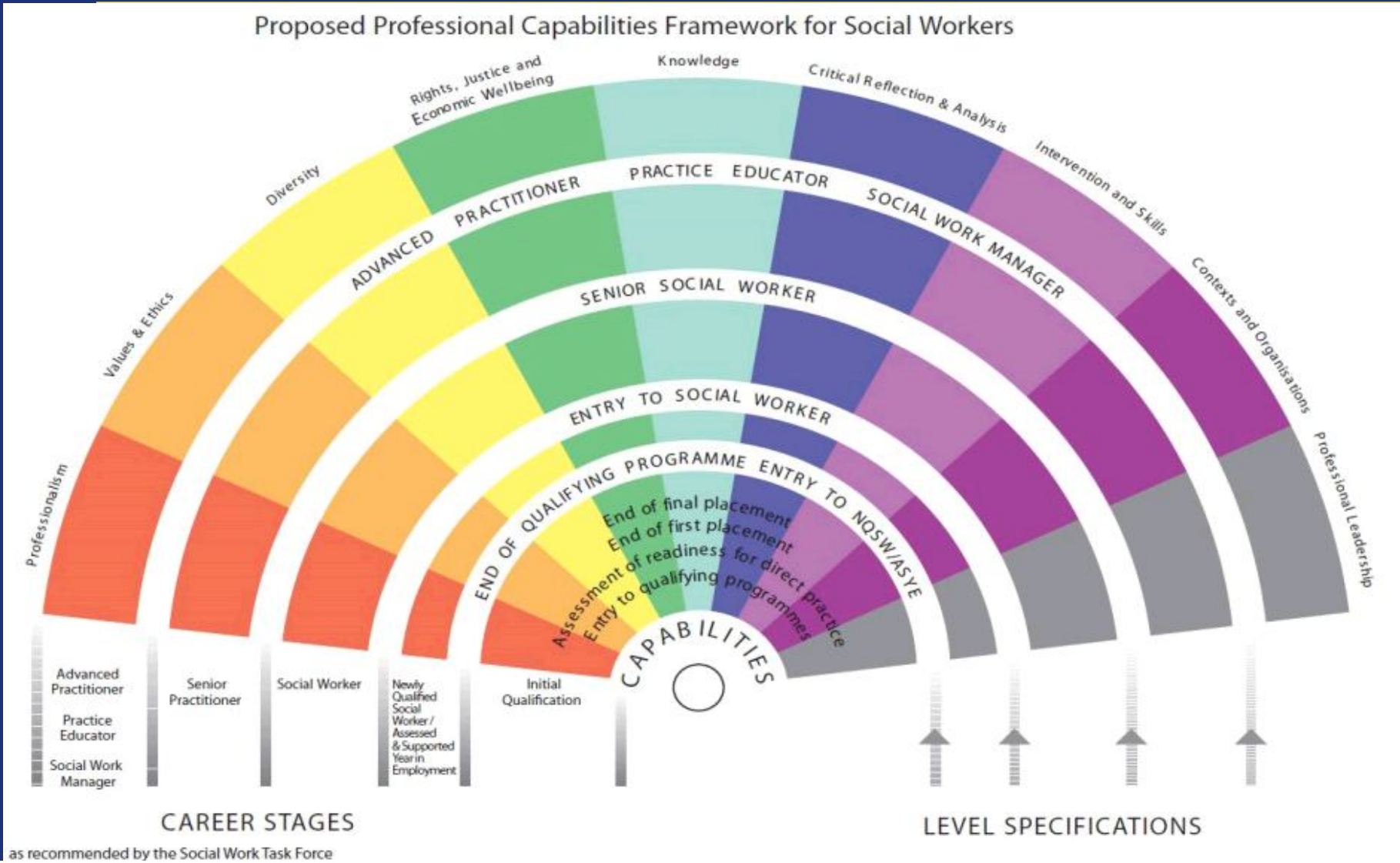
Professional Capabilities Framework



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Regulating education

- GSCC has taken recent steps to strengthen regulation
- Risk based – tackling poor performers; good institutions given more freedom
- However, current standards informing curriculum are complex & confusing

Current Regulation of SW education

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GSCC code of practice

Quality Assurance Agency

National Occupational Standards

Department of Health

Social Work Degree course

Service user involvement

GSCC inspection

Future Regulation of SW education

College of Social Work

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Capabilities Framework & Curriculum guidance

Health Professions Council

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Proficiency Standards

HPC inspection

Social Work Degree courses

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Future of registration

- ‘Social worker’ will remain a protected title
- Until the transfer of powers all social workers **must** remain registered with the GSCC
  - Currently 41,000 social workers renewing registration every 3 years
- Under HPC rules, registration will be every 2 years
- Will continue to include CPD requirements

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Future of conduct

- The GSCC has a ‘conduct’ model of regulation, based on code of practice
- HPC’s model has more focus on ‘fitness or ability to practice’:
  - Competence to practice, against proficiency standards
  - Conduct against Standards of Conduct, Performance and Ethics

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Change is an opportunity

- Both GSCC and HPC have great experience and knowledge
- Social Work Reform Board is generational opportunity for change
- Sector needs to work together to make sure we get these changes right
- GSCC is committed to these reforms and to leaving a lasting legacy

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Thank you

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