



PUT PEOPLE BEFORE PROFIT: NO TO UNETHICAL CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP

The Social Work Action Network (SWAN) congratulates all those being nominated at tonight's award ceremony for their hard work and commitment to serving and providing the very best service to children, families, individuals and communities who need help and support. SWAN supports the positive recognition of social work and social workers: we do not oppose the Social Worker of the Year (SWYAs) awards nor the recent Children and Young People Now awards (CYPN).

We say however, that corporate sponsorship should not come at any price when it comes to our professional and personal values.

SWAN is appalled by the inclusion of corporate sponsors at award events like this, who put profit before people based on unethical business practice and exploitation. SWAN seriously questions whether companies like CAPITA and Ingeus should have been given the privilege of being associated with professional social care awards when their own ability to respect dignity, competence, social justice and service is woeful. CAPITA have voluntarily withdrawn from the awards.

Ingeus make millions from it's contract to get people into work, but have a poor success rate. They are also hostile to trade unions. CAPITA have been hired by the government to carry out PIP assessments and having helped themselves (with ATOS) to a slice of £500m of taxpayers' money, but all we have seen is administrative injustice and thousands of wrong decisions. These companies should have no role in public services. Their involvement therefore in sponsorship with these awards is incompatible with social work, youth work and social care, and nothing more than a cynical device to attract more business and to advance the corporate capture of social work and children's services.

Whilst MA Healthcare who run the CYPN awards have remained silent, the board of trustees running the SWYAs refuse to take a position on CAPITA or explain why they were a suitable candidate to sponsor the social work 'values' category in the first place?

SWAN believes that putting people before unethical practice and profit is not that complicated. We do not need to formulate any more ethical and value policies as we have these already, they just need to be implemented. SWAN says that the award organisers should do the right thing and show Ingeus and CAPITA the door!