Residential Work

Roger Clough

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MACMILLAN

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Social work is at an important stage in its development. All professions must be responsive to changing social and economic conditions if they are to meet the needs of those they serve. This series focuses on sound practice and the specific contribution which social workers can make to the well-being of our society in the 1980s.

The British Association of Social Workers has always been conscious of its role in setting guidelines for practice and in seeking to raise professional standards. The conception of the Practical Social Work series arose from a survey of the BASW members to discover where they, the practitioners in social work, felt there was the most need for new literature. The response was overwhelming and enthusiastic, and the result is a carefully planned, coherent series of books. The emphasis is firmly on practice, set in a theoretical framework. The books will inform, stimulate and promote discussion, thus adding to the further development of skills and high professional standards. All the authors are practitioners and teachers of social work, representing a wide variety of experience.

JO CAMPLING

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Acknowledgements

I am aware of three main influences on this book: first, from my time as a residential worker; second, from students and staff at Bristol University; and third, from my family.

Young, fresh from college, I worked as a teacher and housemaster at Banstead Hall and Park House, two senior boys' approved schools. Not everything was good (one routine I remember was to line up the boys to be checked off while I squeezed toothpaste on to their brushes!) but there were some good times too. Most importantly I came to realise the need to create a culture or style of living that would be agreed by staff and boys.

At the university I have shared in the stimulation of working with staff and students on the post-qualifying course in residential social work. We try to look at theory and at action, indeed at theory for action – and it has been a privilege to work with practitioners who invest and share so much.

Residential work is concerned with arrangements for living. As I have thought about the ideas developed in this book, I have related them to my present 'residential life', my life with my family. Often unbeknown to them I have looked at the way we manage meals or bed-times, and smiled wryly at my own attempts to plan. If the children ever read this, they will know a part of how I thought it *ought* to be.

In addition to my general thanks to these three groups of people, I am grateful to Christopher Beedell, Phyllida Parsloe and David Watson for detailed comments on the text. Avon Social Services Department authorised my use of their figures and Andrew Edgington prepared the information for me.

Bristol University
January 1982

ROGER CLOUGH