PRACTICAL SOCIAL WORK

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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 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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Preface

I could not have written this book without the encouragement, enthusiasm and valuable guidance of many friends and colleagues. My thanks especially to Professor Dorothy Whitaker and Lesley Archer at the University of York for guiding me through my research into co-leadership in groupwork and for commenting on the first draft of the book; to Tim Cook, formerly Director of Family Service Units, and Janet Williams at National Office, Family Service Units; to all my colleagues in Family Service Units and to participants on the groupwork workshops I have led, whose willingness to share their ideas and practice experiences have helped to shape my book; to Vera Rainforth and Rosanna Whitehead for their help in typing the text.

I dedicate my book to Eva Seligman with whom I found my creativity and the release to express it.

MICHAEL PRESTON-SHOOT