



Evropská unie  
Evropský sociální fond  
Operační program Zaměstnanost



# SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION IN THE UK

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# OVERVIEW

- Social Work Education –Current Position
- Government initiatives
- The threats



# UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION

- Three year degree course at University
- Leading to BSc (Hons) Social Work
- Expected workload of a full time student in the UK is to spend 1200 hours each year on their studies
- Method of assessment—Examination/Course work/Practical work

Source : University of Hertfordshire

# ABOUT THE COURSES

- The Course must meet the standards set by the Health & Care Professionals Council (HCPC)
- Upon obtaining the degree the candidates will be able to register with the HCPC
- Must register to practice
- Students are subject the Enhanced Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) Safeguarding is given a high priority in UK
- **Total of 170 days of direct practical work**
- **Year 2—70 days Year 3 ---100 days**

# PRACTICAL PLACEMENTS

- All courses include practical placements in social work teams
- Universities provide the approved placements and approve supervisors
- Placements offer supervision & mentorship
- Reports from supervisors are part of the overall assessment of the students

# UNDERGRADUATE CONTENT

- Core Modules Year 1 —ALL Mandatory
  1. Interprofessional Education
  2. Human Growth &Development
  3. Critical reflection in learning & practice
  4. Introductory Social Science
  5. Professional Development for Social Work Practice
  6. Readiness for Direct practice-Skills1
  7. The legal framework for Social Work Practice 1

# UNDERGRADUATE CONTENT

- Core Modules Year 2—All Mandatory
- Collaborative Working with Service Users & Carers
- Crime, Welfare and Society
- Policy Content & Transnational Social Work
- Readiness to Practice 2. Skills for social Work
- Social Work Theory & methods
- The Legal Framework for Social Work 2
- Values and Ethics for Social Workers

# UNDERGRADUATE CONTENT

- Core Modules Year 3—All Mandatory
- Critical Practice in Contemporary Social Work
- Dissertation
- Enhancing Health and Social Care through Inter-Professional Education
- Legal & Ethical Considerations in Practice
- Risk Assessment & Risk Management



# POST GRADUATE EDUCATION

- Two year degree course at University must have obtained a good first degree to be selected
- Leading to MSc Social Work
- Expected workload of a full time student in the UK is to spend 1200 hours each year on their studies
- Method of assessment—Examination/Course work/Practical work

# POST GRADUATE CONTENT

- Core modules year1-All mandatory
  1. Ethical and Legal Context for Social Work
  2. Evidence & Research Skills
  3. Human Growth and development
  4. Preparation for Practice Learning
  5. Readiness to Practice 1
  6. Social Work Practice & Theory 1
  7. Values & Diversity

# POST GRADUATE CONTENT

- Core Modules year 2-All Mandatory
  1. Collaborative, Interprofessional/interagency and inclusionary practice
  2. Dissertation
  3. Readiness for Practice 2
  4. Social Work Practice & Theory 2
  5. Sociological & policy Context for Social Work
  6. Transnational Social Work & Welfare in Europe

# PATHWAYS

It is common for social work students to concentrate on one pathway in their final year So the pathways are usually:

- Children & Families
- Adults, Elderly and Disability
- Learning Disability
- Mental Health
- Youth Offending
- Crime

# FITNESS TO PRACTICE

- In the past many social workers have left the profession after the first year
- Now newly qualified social workers have extra support
- Have protected caseloads

# GOVERNMENT & POLITICAL PRESSURES

- Big issue is that the National Health Service in UK is funded directly from Central Government and is free
- Social Care is managed by local authorities who set their own budgets
- Social care is funded by local taxation and government grants
- Long period of austerity has led to diminished grants to local authorities
- Therefore cuts to social care budgets have led to diminished services

# GOVERNMENT POLICIES

- Big overhaul of the benefit system leading to increased poverty for some groups—Food Banks are now commonplace in the UK
- Housing policies to cut social housing has led to a rise in private renting—increased the cost of renting a home
- The housing benefit cuts mean that many poor families cannot afford to live in major cities—dramatic increase in homelessness
- The most vulnerable in society are those who seek social care
- Social Workers are under pressure and leaving the profession

# THREATS

- Austerity has had an effect on social work training
- Several large universities have closed their social work courses.
- Interference by central government regarding registration as a response to a blame culture
- The issue of safeguarding children and vulnerable adults is high on the public's agenda
- When things go wrong social workers are blamed
- Most enquiries report lack of communication between agencies/poor management. More children are taken into care in 2017 than 20 years ago

# WHAT IS BEING DONE

- Appointment of the Chief Social Worker in 2013
- Improving the training of care workers
- Training more care workers to delivery high quality care and the ambition to increase the number of CARE APPRENTICESHIP
- Improving access to independent advisers for those receiving benefits
- All training courses to consult service users now known as **Co-production**
- **Co-production** is seen as essential in health and social care research

# PROFESSIONAL ISSUES

- Need to counter the threat by care planning to relationship work
- Social Work posts must reflect the training and capabilities of workers
- Concentrate on Strength Based Social Work which fosters social work focussing on partnership working not deficits
- More research on outcomes
- Valuing the role of Principal Social Workers as leaders

**Social Work**  
**is the**  
**Art of Listening**  
**and the**  
**Science of Hope**

