



## **Adult Social Care and Health**

# **Guidance for Adult Social Care Social Work Students on Statutory Placements**

**Version 1**

Version: 1 FOI Status: Public	Derbyshire County Council Adult Social Care Guidance for Adult Social Care Social Work Students on Statutory Placements	Issued: January 2024 Review Due: January 2026 Author: Vanessa Ward
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## Guidance

This guidance is adapted from the Social Work England (SWE) [guidance on practice placement for social work students](#).

Social work England provides [Guidance on practice placements](#) for social work students.

Social work students need to be enabled to develop their skills and knowledge across all areas of social work, gain required experience in practice settings and meet the professional standards in a supportive, supervised and safe settings.

Social work courses aim to ensure that students develop the skills and knowledge necessary to meet the [professional standards](#) by the time they complete the course. Although [Social Work England](#) do not regulate students, they do expect them to understand and work towards SWE's professional standards in preparation for when they apply for registration.

It is important to note that 'social worker' is a protected title as detailed in [The Social Workers Regulations 2018](#). Completing the social work qualification does not entitle you to use the title. Use of the title is only permitted once you are registered.

That means it's illegal to use the title or represent oneself as a social worker unless the person has current registration with Social Work England. Students are not required to be registered; therefore, they are not permitted to use the title social worker. All references and representations made to students whilst within Derbyshire County Council (DCC) should not include the title social worker. Anyone who uses the title in any way, without being registered is committing an offence and may be prosecuted. This includes verbally referring to yourself, or others, as a social worker, contracts, job titles including those embedded in MS Teams and SAP, job profiles, recording, signing documentation including electronic signatures, and identification (ID) e.g., badges. It is recommended within Adult Social Care that students use 'social work student or social work apprentice to introduce or represent themselves.

Students should make sure that during their course, including while they are on placement, they do not do anything that contravenes the professional standards or the policies and procedures of their course or placement provider.

Students need to gain experience of sufficient numbers of statutory social work tasks involving high-risk decision making and legal interventions; to enable them to experience and understand the requirement for demonstrating competency of statutory social work at the required level of the professional capability framework (PCF) at [end of first placement](#) and [end of last placement/completion](#) levels.

This means whilst on placement with us they are able to undertake / take lead on some tasks our non-registered colleagues do not complete.

Some common learning opportunities social work students will be expected to be involved in during a placement include:

- assessments: including observation, gathering of information, analysis, application of appropriate theory, reporting and development of recommendations.

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- care and support planning
- direct contact with adults and their families
- recording and report writing. (a qualified and experienced social worker should oversee this and be named on any reports as responsible for the evidence)
- safeguarding including making enquiries, safety planning and VARM processes considering and contributing to the management of risk in generic and specialist services
- presentation of outcomes and professional recommendations from formal assessment processes, including analysis of risk and proposed recommendations, at panels, meetings and courts (if required).
- communicating, engaging and coproduction with people with lived experience of social work.
- contributing to MDT discussions and decision making
- contributing to Peer Group Discussions (PGDs)

The level of responsibility that students will have when undertaking these opportunities will vary depending on their skills and experience. A student's responsibility should gradually increase, under appropriate supervision, as their knowledge and skills develop. Students' development on different schemes will progress differently - for example schemes like return to social work and social work apprenticeships are likely to be developed quicker because they are placed with us for the duration of their training.

No student should visit an adult / family alone or lead on any social work process unless they have been shown how to do the task, observed doing it and assessed as competent to do/lead it. Each situation they are going into / leading alone must be considered safe and appropriate to do so and at a level of complexity they are competent to deal with (this can be a movable position for any student).

Nb. the student's supervisor is ultimately responsible for the quality of their student's work – the supervisor should quality assure all written reports / assessments and ensure appropriate support and supervision is given throughout the learning experience.

### Author History

#### Approval and authorisation history

Authored by Vanessa Ward	Principal Social Work	January 2024
Approved by DMT		January 2024

#### Change History

Version 1	January 2024	Vanessa Ward	January 2024
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