

MODULE SPECIFICATION FORM

Module Title: Critical Reflection on Accountability in Complex Social Work Practice	Level: 6	Credit Value: 20
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Module code: SOC604	Semester(s) in which to be offered: 2	With effect from: September 2009
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Existing/New: New	Title of module being replaced (if any): N/A
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Originating Subject: Social Work	Module Leader: Kirsty Perry
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Module duration (contact hours/directed/directed private study): 200 hours 12 hours teacher facilitated 24 hrs online activities 42hrs directed practice experience 122hours private/independent study	Status: core/option/elective (identify programme where appropriate):	Core: Graduate Certificate in Post Qualifying Social Work Core: Glyndwr University Certificate in Continuing Education (Accountability in Qualified Social Work)
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Percentage taught by Subjects other than originating Subject (please name other Subjects):	None
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Programme(s) in which to be offered: Graduate Certificate in Post Qualified Social Work Glyndwr University Certificate in Continuing Education (Accountability in Qualified Social Work)	Pre-requisites per programme (between levels): Registered Social Worker	Co-requisites per programme (within a level):
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Module Aims: 1. To enable social workers to critically reflect upon and evaluate their own accountability as a registered social worker in organisations delivering social work services. 2. To provide a framework of constructive feedback to the social worker in order to improve critical reflection of accountability in increasingly complex social work cases

Expected Learning Outcomes At the end of this module, students should be able to:

Knowledge and Understanding:

1. Critically reflect upon their experience of accountability in complex social work provision, articulating how evidence from supervision, mentoring, theory, research and legislation has informed this. (A3, B2,B3, C1,D1,D2)
2. Critically analyse their role in working with social work cases of increasing complexity within their employing organisation, managing any relevant ethical dilemmas and/or areas of ambiguity(A3,B1,B3,C1,D1)
3. Demonstrate a systematic understanding of their accountability for complex assessments and judgements made as a qualified social worker with reference to the appropriate legal and ethical framework (A1,A2,A3,B1,B3,C1,C2)
4. Communicate and justify the outcomes of complex social work assessments and decisions effectively to service users, their families and carers and relevant professional agencies.(A2,B1,B3,C1,C2,C3,D1,D3)

Transferable/Key Skills and other attributes:

At the end of this module students should be able to

Exercise initiative and personal responsibility

Make decisions in complex and unpredictable situations

Demonstrate effective written and verbal communication skills

Demonstrate competency in word processing and in the presentation of data including record keeping

Demonstrate competence in the use of library databases and the internet in search for information .

Assessment: please indicate the type(s) of assessment (eg examination, oral, coursework, project) and the weighting of each (%). ***Details of indicative assessment tasks must be included.***

Portfolio consisting of 2 elements

- 1) Essay: A critically reflective and evidence informed written account of the experience of accountability whilst working with a complex social work case. The account will explore tensions and challenges where relevant, justify decisions and actions taken and should be supported by and cross referenced to evidence contained within their portfolio.
- 2) Portfolio: A Portfolio which provides appropriate and succinct evidence of achievement of learning outcomes 3 and 4 in practice. This must include a relevant observation record written and signed by the student's assessor. Other evidence can be selected and submitted by the student as desired to support the demonstration of outcomes and can be taken from the 12 months practice previous to the start of as well as during the module. The Portfolio will be jointly assessed by the module tutor and student's assessor.

Both elements of assessment must be passed in order to pass the module

Any work which breaches the confidentiality of others will be referred.

Assessment	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Weighting	Duration (if exam)	Word count or equivalent if appropriate
One	1,2,3, 4,	Critical Reflective Account cross referenced to evidence presented in the portfolio	75%	N/A	2500 words
Two	3, 4	Portfolio of evidence signed by assessor confirming that learning outcomes 3 and 4 have been achieved in practice	25%	N/A	

Learning and Teaching Strategies: The module uses a blended approach to learning and teaching, including 12 hours teacher facilitated contact at Glyndwr University, supported by 24 hours online learning via Blackboard and 36 hours focused practice experience including mentoring and supervision in the workplace. Teacher facilitated hours will include lead lectures, case focused discussion and tutorials. Reflective discussion groups to enable the development of critical friends and a critically

reflective approach to accountability will be introduced within the classroom and continue as an online activity together with online theoretical support and development. An experiential, work based approach will be utilised in practice in which guided practice, observation, supervision and critical feedback from assessors will be used to enable development of the social workers critical awareness and critical reflection.

Syllabus outline:

The dimensions of accountability in complex social work practice

The reflective practitioner: The role of critical thinking and reflection in professional judgement and decision making

The reflexive practitioner: self awareness and accountability

Social work values as practice: ethical judgements and decision making in complex practice situations

Building social capital: Accountability to users, carers and families

Accountable social work practice within legal and agency frameworks

Ethical and accountable social work practice in the inter-agency and multi-disciplinary context

Research in practice and 'professional' accountability

Professional assertiveness: being heard and meeting needs

Maintaining accountability through critical discourse with other social work professionals : Supervision, critical friends and learning organisations

Lifelong learning, continuing professional development and practice wisdom: Improving practice and maintaining accountability in complex and uncertain times.

Bibliography

(please submit in Harvard referencing format)

Essential reading:

Banks, S. (2006) *Ethics and Values in Social Work* (3rd Ed.), Palgrave MacMillan: Hampshire.

Brown, K. & Rutter, L. (2006) *Critical Thinking for Social Work*, Learning Matters, Exeter.

Fraser, S. & Mathews, S. (2008) (eds) *The Critical Practitioner in Social Work and Health Care*, The Open University, Sage, London.

Gould, N. & Baldwin, M. (2004) *Social Work, Critical Reflection and the Learning Organisation*, Ashgate, Hampshire.

Knott, C. & Scragg, T. (Eds.) (2007) *Reflective Practice in Social Work*. Learning Matters: Exeter

Thompson, S. & Thompson, N. (2008) *The Critically Reflective Practitioner*. Palgrave MacMillan: Hampshire

Other indicative reading:

Adams, R. (2003) *Social Work and Empowerment*, BASW, Palgrave, Hampshire.

Beckett, C. & Maynard, A. (2005) *Values & Ethics in Social Work*, Sage, London.

Hatton, K. (2008) *New Directions in Social Work Practice*, Learning Matters, Exeter.

Newman, T. Moseley, A. Tierney, S. & Ellis, A. (2005) *Evidence-based Social Work: A Guide for the Perplexed*, Russell House Publishing, Dorset.

Parrott, L. (2006) *Values and Ethics in Social Work Practice*. Learning Matters: Exeter.

Payne, M. (2000) *Teamwork in Multi-professional Care*, Palgrave, Hampshire.

Smith, D. (Edit) (2006) *Social Work and Evidence-Based Practice*, JKP, London.

Sullivan, H. & Skelcher, C. (2002) *Working Across Boundaries Collaboration in Public Services*, Palgrave, Hampshire.

Webb, S. (2006) *Social Work in a Risk Society: Social and Political Perspectives*. Palgrave MacMillan :Hampshire