



Fact Sheet

Social Worker Degree Apprenticeship Level 6

Who is the programme suitable for?

The programme is suitable for new and existing Devon Partnership Trust support staff who are responsible for delivering direct services and who have the potential to take on greater challenges and responsibility as qualified social workers.

It will support the development of social work trainees across a wide range of settings including services for adults, older people with mental health difficulties and CAMHS. The programme will equip apprentices to work with professionals from other organisations, such as the police, healthcare organisations, schools and probation services.

The Social Worker Degree Apprenticeship is a practice-based learning programme that combines on- and off-the-job learning and development, delivered flexibly around the demands of the workplace. Apprentices will develop new skills and knowledge whilst carrying out real work as part of a team in a social care setting.

Through completion of this apprenticeship, learners will gain:

- Practice experience and evidence of assessed professional competencies in the workplace
- New skills and knowledge preparing them to take on more demanding roles within social care delivery
- A professionally-qualifying degree in Social Work, upon successful completion leading to registration with Social Work England

Overview of the role

Social Work is an exciting and fulfilling international profession. As a Social Worker you will work in partnership with adults, children, carers and families in a range of different settings to support and promote positive change in people's lives in order to improve their wellbeing and independence.

Within the context of relevant Social Work legislation and responsibilities you will use your professional judgement and build relationships with a variety of individuals and communities, as well as with a wide range of other professionals and agencies. In your role you will assess, plan, implement and evaluate care support for people with complex needs. This requires an ability to critically reflect and make decisions within a clear professional code of ethics.

As a registered Social Worker, you will engage in protecting individuals from harm, abuse, neglect and exploitation. You will work in a way which is compassionate and which takes account of all aspects of the individual's life - ensuring their voice is central to decision making.

Throughout your career, you will be responsible for ensuring your continuing professional development and will be expected to demonstrate leadership whatever your role. All Social Workers must register with the professional regulator and adhere to their professional standards.

Topics covered include:

- Social work theory and legislation
- Applying learning to practice and developing critical and analytical skills
- The differing approaches to person-centred care
- The development of health and social care in the UK and the political and contemporary context in which care takes place
- Theories, concepts and professional principles that underpin social work practice
- A range of research methods and their application to social care practice

Full details of the standards can be found on the Institute of Apprenticeships website. [HERE](#)

What qualifications will you achieve?

BA (Honours) Social Work (England) and is approved by Social Work England (SWE)

Entry /Eligibility Criteria

- To demonstrate the potential to study at undergraduate level. This means a minimum of a Level 3 qualification or A' levels. If we accept you meet our criteria but you do not have a minimum qualification you will be asked to complete a written assessment by the Open University
- Have GCSE grade 9–4/A*–C/Functional/Key Skills Level 2 in English and mathematics, or a certified equivalent
- Demonstrate IT competence through self-declaration
- Achieve an International English Language Testing Systems (IELTS) score of 7 if English is not their first language, demonstrating the ability to fulfil all spoken aspects of the role with confidence and fluency in English.
- To be in a substantive post of at least 30 hours

- To be working in a team that has registered social worker posts available that you would move into at the end of the course
- To have your manager's agreement and understanding of what is required of the apprenticeship
- Due to the current eligibility criteria for Government funded apprenticeship schemes, we are currently only able to accept applications from candidates who have been resident in the UK for the last 3 years, and who are not already in any form of Government funded education

Duration

3.5 years in total – 3 years to End Point Assessment and up to 6 months to complete the EPA

Frequency of programmes

Annually – October

How is the programme delivered?

Hours – Apprentices need to work a minimum of 30 hours a week. 20% of your work time will be off-the-job learning, which equates to 7.5 hours a week for a full-time learner. This will be tutor supported on-line learning. You will take this time around the requirements of the course and for additional study time. You will have the flexibility to pick the most suitable times proactively and reactively to fit in with your commitments.

You will need to evidence 10 days of work learning in stage 1 and you will attend assessed placement 70 days in stage 2 and 100 days in stage 3 with the understanding that these may include travelling further than your usual workplace. You would be expected to experience the normal shift-patterns of your placement team.

Once you have qualified you will be able to undertake the Assessed and Supported Year in Employment (ASYE) in the Trust, with a social work Placement supervisor, Practice Educator and peer support groups in place to continue your learning.

How are you assessed?

The degree module assignments and placements are structured so that you can demonstrate that you can practice according to the Social Work England Professional Standards and the Social Work Degree Apprenticeship Standard. On placement you will be assessed by a social work Practice Educator against the Professional Capabilities Framework relevant to your stage of learning. You will complete Placement Portfolios which include Records of (critical) Practice, feedback and observation reports.

You will also have 4 Progress Reviews annually with a Practice Tutor and you will complete a Final Reflection to reflect on the evidence you have gained to meet the SWDA standard.

Registration

You will be registered with Social Work England on successful completion of the course. They are also responsible for regulating social workers.

Career progression

Social workers employed by the Trust generally work as senior mental health practitioners in community focussed multi-disciplinary teams within Core Adult Mental Health Services and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services. There are also social workers within Older People's Mental Health Services (inpatient and community), Home Treatment Teams, Specialist Services (services supporting individuals with Learning Disability, Perinatal Mental Health, Autistic Spectrum Disorder) and Secure Services (inpatient and community services for those in contact with Criminal Justice System and presenting with significant risk).

Career development opportunities would also include local authority social work roles in the Trust, which can be considered after two years post-registration. The Devon County Council Social Care teams lead with meeting statutory duties under the Care Act 2014 delegated by DCC for adults 18-65 with primary mental health problems; and the AMHP service (Approved Mental Health Professional) carry out certain duties under the Mental Health Act. For example they are responsible for coordinating assessment and admission to hospital if someone needs to be detained. The AMHPs teams are largely staffed by experienced Social Workers but other experienced professionals can also apply. Post qualifying experience and additional training is required to become approved as an AMHP.

Training Provider(s)

Open University Full details can be found on their website [HERE](#)

How do I apply?

For External applicants
Currently not available

For Internal Applicants

- These are advertised via NHS jobs or on our [recruitment website](#) generally April/May
- To register your interest please contact dpt.apprenticeships@nhs.net and ask for your name to be put on our enquiry list. You will then be informed when applications open each year. You can also sign up for alerts on DPT NHS jobs.
- You must first be working in a team that has band 5 registered Social Worker posts/Mental Health Practitioners available that you would move into at the end of the course.
- You must have your managers and service managers' agreement that your current role can become an apprenticeship role if your application is successful, with their understanding of what is required of the apprenticeship.

If you have more specific questions regarding what the apprenticeship entails, please contact

dpt.apprenticeships@nhs.net