

Consultation on Qualifying Education and Training Standards

Your response

There are six questions relating to the rules and three relating to impact assessment. Please specify to what extent you agree or disagree with the education and training standards we have proposed, which can be found on the Social Work England website. There is opportunity throughout this survey for further comment.

The deadline for responding to this consultation is 5pm Wednesday 1 May 2019. We welcome your views both here and in future consultations to improve our profession.

About you

We would like to ask for some basic personal information about you. This information will help us understand how well we are reaching different audiences and make sure we understand the impact of our proposals on diverse groups. We will collect and use the information to:

- Listen to your ideas about our services.
- Evaluate and improve services.

A full privacy statement can be found on the Social Work England website.

a. What is your name?

Sarah Saunders and Pete Bentley on behalf of Nagalro

b. What is your email address?

nagalro@nagalro.com

c. Would you like your response to be kept confidential by Social Work England? Would you like your response to be kept confidential by Social Work England? Please tick.

Yes

No

d. Which of the following best describes the capacity in which you are responding to this consultation? Please tick.

- Adult social care – other
- Adult social care – social worker
- Charity or non-governmental organisation
- Children's social care – other
- Children's social care – social worker
- Higher education institution/academia
- Local authority
- Mental health services
- Other health services
- Person with lived experience of social work
- Social work student
- Prefer not to say
- Other

e. Are you responding to this consultation on behalf of an organisation?

- Yes
- No

2. If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please fill in the below.

a. What is the name of your organisation?

Nagalro, The Professional Association for Children's Guardians, Family Court Advisers and Independent Social Workers.

b. Please chose the category below that best describes your organisation

- Education provider
- Employer
- Professional body
- Regulator
- Charity and/or voluntary sector organisation
- Other

3. Education and training standards

To what extent do you agree with the approach we're taking?

- 1 (strongly disagree)
- 2
- 3 (neither)
- 4
- 5 (strongly agree)

4. If you would like to add further comments, please do so below.

The approach taken is a good one and reflects the fact that social work is about people. Our only concern is that it may be too employer-focused and may lose some of the academic rigour which is also very important. For example, the placements have increased from 70 days in 2nd year (BA) and 1st year MA to 100 days. This will inevitably affect the amount of academic work offered. Too little thought seems to have been given to the purpose of the two different placements, apart from the fact that they have to be contrasting and must include a statutory one. Beyond that, there is no explanation about how a first placement should differ from the second. There needs to be more about reflective practice. It is almost airbrushed out of the proposals but, in our view, it is a vital component of high quality and successful social work practice.

5. To what extent do you agree that the 2020 standards reflect what is important in preparing people to be social workers?

- 1 (strongly disagree)
- 2
- 3 (neither)
- 4
- 5 (strongly agree)

6. If you would like to add further comments, please do so below.

See questions 4 and 8

7. Do you think we are being ambitious enough?

- Yes
 No

8. If you would like to add further comments, please do so below.

We suggest further consideration be given to the ability of local authorities in the present economic climate to provide placements which form a valuable part of the student social worker's learning experience. There needs to be more stringent requirements that local authorities provide the right number and quality of *learning* placement opportunities and do not use students to make up staff shortages within their own department. In order to do that there will have to be adequate funding for both the Local Authorities and Universities. This simply cannot be done 'on the cheap' if we are to create a profession in which the public can have confidence.

9. Is there anything you think should be added?

- Yes
 No

10. If you would like to add further comments, please do so below.

See questions 4 and 8

11. Is there anything in the standards you don't understand?

- Yes

No

12. If you would like to add further comments, please do so below.

13. Do you have any other comments?

14. Impact assessment questions

Do you think that the proposed changes will bring benefits for you, your organisation or those you represent?

Yes

No

15. If yes, what impact do you foresee?

See question 4

16. Do you think that the proposed changes will impact differently on people based on protected characteristics?

The Equality Act (2010) lists nine protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership, and pregnancy and maternity.

- Yes
 No

17. If yes, which characteristics?

Choose as many as you like

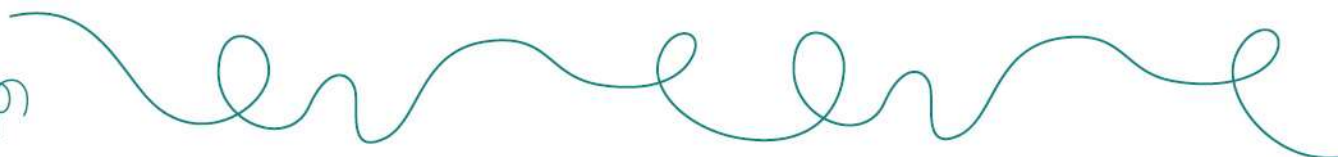
- Age
 Disability
 Gender reassignment
 Race
 Religion or belief
 Sex
 Sexual orientation
 Marriage and civil partnership
 Pregnancy and maternity

Please fill this in

18. Do you think the proposed changes will adversely affect you, your organisation, or those you represent?

19. If yes, what impact do you foresee?

Thank you for taking part in this consultation.



Once the consultation period has finished, we will provide a response which will summarise the feedback we receive and detail any changes we make.