



## The social work briefing

Please note that this briefing is the July and August edition. The next briefing is due out towards the end of September 2019. We hope you all have a great summer.

### **Implementing the post qualifying standards for social work supervisors in adult social care (PQSSWS)**

The first PQSSWS national moderation panel met on 12 July. It was a very positive meeting where we looked at the data we've received so far from the Early Implementation sites, set out the panel's terms of reference and developed the next stage of the roll out scheme. The key messages for the implementation of the PQSSWS will be ready in time for the next social work briefing.

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## Support the Train the Trainer – Supervisor Development Programme

Research in Practice for Adults is working with the Department of Health and Social Care and Skills for Care to develop and deliver a national [Train the Trainer – Supervisor Development Programme](#). Principal social workers will have recently received details and over the next year every local authority will be entitled to places on this national programme.

As part of the development of materials RiPfA will be consulting with the sector, and would like as many people as possible to [respond to their survey](#). Please do respond and encourage colleagues to as well.

To support the delivery of the programme, RiPfA is looking to find low or no cost venues within local areas. Venues will need to seat 30 people cabaret and be available for three days over three months. If you're able to support, please email [ttSDP@ripfa.org.uk](mailto:ttSDP@ripfa.org.uk).

[Find out more about the programme](#). Also follow #ttSDP for updates.

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**ASYE Adults**

## **The funding portal is now open**

The Assessed and Supported Year in Employment (ASYE) portal is open for employers to register their 2019-20 newly qualified social workers (NQSWs) until 31 January 2020. Employers must have submitted a pre-registration application form before registering NQSWs, and NQSWs must have started the ASYE from 1 February 2019 to be eligible for funding. The portal can be accessed via [our website](#) and [guidance is available on how to use the portal](#).

Employers are also reminded to update their applications for 2017-18 and 2018-19 on the portal. You're able to do this at the 6 month review and 12 month assessment points. Information about the ASYE is passed on to the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and could influence the funding for ASYE in the future, as well as providing collated information for the sector on completion rates. Please note that no personal information is passed to DHSC.

To receive certificates for NQSWs registered on the 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 funding years, please email [adultsASYE@skillsforcare.org.uk](mailto:adultsASYE@skillsforcare.org.uk) with the NQSW name, HCPC number, completion date and what Skills for Care funding year they were registered on. To receive certificates for NQSWs on the 2018-19 funding year, please enter the completion date for them against their record on the portal.

If you have an NQSW that has not previously been registered on the portal and you require a certificate for them, you will need to send an email confirming the candidate's full name, HCPC number and the date that they completed the ASYE to the email address above.

Please email [adultsASYE@skillsforcare.org.uk](mailto:adultsASYE@skillsforcare.org.uk) if you have any further questions.

**If you have any questions about adults ASYE, please email [adultsASYE@skillsforcare.org.uk](mailto:adultsASYE@skillsforcare.org.uk).**

**ASYE child and family**



## **Update on annual report**

The draft annual report is now with the Department for Education. On 22 July the Child and Family NQSW Community of Practice and Employers Champion Group met to discuss the key messages and recommendations. This was a very constructive meeting acknowledging the overall benefits of the ASYE year and its future development, but also discussing the need to restate the baseline requirements for the scheme to support further consistency in the design and delivery of ASYE programmes and the assessment of NQSWs. The key messages from this meeting and the annual report will be ready for publication before the next social work briefing in September.

## **DfE longitudinal study of local authority child and family social workers**

In 2018, the Department for Education (DfE) commissioned a major new longitudinal study about local authority child and family social workers' careers. This is being conducted by IFF Research and academics from Manchester Metropolitan and Salford Universities. Over 5,500 social workers took part in the first wave of the survey, which finished earlier this year - about one in six of all child and family social workers in England. A report of findings will be published later this summer. [Visit the IFF Research website for more information about the study.](#)

The second wave of the survey will take place in the Autumn. IFF are very keen to boost the number of newly-qualified social workers, currently in their ASYE, who complete a survey. Please look out for further communications from IFF about this over the next few weeks.

## **Important information regarding ASYE completions**

Employers are reminded to **update outstanding completions** for cohorts 4 (2015-16), 5 (2016-17), 6 (2017-18) and 7 (2018-19) on the portal. This will enable Skills for Care to pay the second milestone of funding (£1,000 per NQSW) and issue completion certificates for NQSWs. Funding cannot be issued without this information being provided.

**Outstanding completions for cohorts 4 and 5 must be claimed by 30 September 2019.** Employers with outstanding completions will be contacted to ask them to update the Skills for Care ASYE portal with the completion date, or to provide a valid reason as to why a social worker has not yet completed. Employers are reminded that a completion payment is made after the final assessment, regardless of whether this is a pass or fail.

Details on how to update the Skills for Care ASYE portal with completion dates can be found in the guidance document. Further support can be offered by contacting [childandfamilyASYE@skillsforcare.org.uk](mailto:childandfamilyASYE@skillsforcare.org.uk).

### **Child and Family ASYE FAQ of the month**

Q. Can a social worker who qualified more than 2 years ago complete the ASYE?

A. The ASYE is a programme aimed at supporting newly qualified social workers (NQSWs), so before registering a social worker to complete the ASYE, employers should consider whether the programme is relevant to them. If a social worker qualified more than 2 years ago, the knowledge and skills that they gained may not have been kept up to date during this time. The Department for Education has confirmed that the timescales relate to the point of qualification as a social worker and not when they joined the register that is relevant. Skills for Care cannot guarantee that funding will be available for social workers who qualified well outside of the 2 year timeframe.

If you require further information about funding and registration for the ASYE please email [childandfamilyASYE@skillsforcare.org.uk](mailto:childandfamilyASYE@skillsforcare.org.uk).

### **Action learning facilitation training programmes in Chelmsford, Taunton, Gateshead and Warrington**

***“Try and make time for this training, possibly the most thought provoking training I’ve been on in a long time”, previous delegate.***

Don’t miss out on this free 3-day training course in how to facilitate action learning sets in your ASYE programmes, delivered in partnership with the Centre for Action Learning Facilitation. Action learning is a grouped based activity which uses the learning of others to solve professional challenges. It encourages the individual to reflect on their experience to develop their own practice.

The programme is for ASYE child and family leads or ASYE child and family supervisors. Please note that this is not suitable for newly qualified social workers.

[Eastern programme \(Chelmsford\) – 2 and 3 September and 17 October 2019](#)

[South West programme \(Taunton\) – 17 and 18 September and 15 October 2019](#)

[North East programme \(Gateshead\) – 3 and 4 October and 6 November 2019](#)

[North West \(Warrington\) – 20 and 21 January 2020 and 19 February 2020](#)

As other dates and locations are confirmed they will be added to the [booking page](#) for this programme.

The best way to contact us about any issues or questions relating to the child and family ASYE is via our dedicated email address [childandfamilyasye@skillsforcare.org.uk](mailto:childandfamilyasye@skillsforcare.org.uk)

## News from the sector



## Leaflet available - How to help people who want to employ their own care and support

In response to a request from PSWs, Skills for Care has been working on a leaflet about how to support people who you think would benefit from employing, or would like to employ, their own care and support staff. We're delighted to announce that it's ready and [available to download](#). The leaflet is specifically for social workers and will help you to tell people about all the options available to them so that they can make an informed decision.

## CPD resources for social work with people with learning disabilities

The Department of Health and Social Care is pleased to announce that work commissioned to support social workers working with adults with learning disabilities has now been launched and is available on the British Association of Social Workers' website. This innovative practice-focussed continuing professional development (CPD) pathway was co-produced and tested with social workers, people with lived experience, employers and academics. The CPD pathway sits alongside a similar framework for social workers working with older people and will be joined later in the year by a CPD pathway for social workers working with people with autism.

Lyn Romeo, the Chief Social Worker for Adults in England said: ***"I am very pleased to welcome this additional resource for social workers' continuing development, representing further commitment to support people with learning disabilities."***

[Capabilities Statement for Social Workers Working with Adults with Learning Disability](#)

[Continuing professional development pathway for Social Workers Working with Adults with Learning Disability](#)

## Update on Capabilities Statement and Roles and Responsibilities Framework

The [Capabilities Statement](#) and [Roles and Responsibilities](#) framework for Principal Social Workers (PSW) in Adult Services have now been published.

Welcoming these resources, Lyn Romeo, Chief Social Worker for Adults said: ***"Most local authorities and a growing number of mental health trusts now have a Principal Social Worker (PSW), responsible for providing effective, professional leadership. Our new Roles and Responsibilities framework sets out the role, function and purpose of a PSW in adult services and will help***



**support employers in their recruitment efforts and clarify what practitioners can expect from the PSW in their organisation.**

***The framework was co-produced with ADASS and the National PSW Adults Network and ADASS membership has been extended to adult PSWs, helping to further embed the role and increase national influence and support. Together with the capabilities statement setting out what a PSW should know and be able to do, this forms part of the government's ambition to further raise the quality and consistency of social work supervision and leadership. This will help ensure we have enough social workers with the right skills and knowledge to support quality practice, improve retention, increase morale and most importantly, improve outcomes for the people and communities with whom social workers work."***

## **Adult Social Work Health Check for 2018-19**

The LGA has published the latest Adult Social Work Health Check for 2018-19. The health check is an annual employer survey which provides a snap shot of continuous improvement locally, regionally and nationally. It enables any trends to be identified to help shape and inform priorities for social work policy and practice. [The health check is available on their website.](#)

## **Lyn Romeo's blog**

Lyn's [latest blog](#) is about 'Introducing the Train the Trainer Supervisor Development Programme'. It's a national programme to raise quality and consistency of supervision which was officially launched at the joint principal social workers conference, hosted by Skills for Care, on 5 July. You can read more of Lyn's previous blogs [here](#).

## Skills for Care activity

### We're talking about developing your staff

During August and September we're putting the spotlight on how to develop your staff. Our latest campaign will share practical advice and guidance on how employers can develop their staff to ensure their workforce have the right skills, knowledge and confidence to provide quality care and support for those who need to use their service. We'll be promoting the importance of the ASYE programmes as well as highlighting how we can help employers to develop their social workers. You'll be able to access information and advice through news articles, blogs and resources on our website.

Follow the campaign on Twitter at #DevelopYourStaff and keep an eye on our [website](#) for regular updates.

### Workforce Development Fund is now open

The Workforce Development Fund is available to any adult social care employer in England to support the continuing professional development of their staff at all levels, offering funding for a wide range of qualifications and learning programmes. Employers can access enhanced funding for the completion of apprenticeship standards.

For the first time this year, there's £3 million of targeted funding aimed at supporting managers and deputies develop the skills and knowledge they need to lead high quality services. Our research shows that at least 10,000 registered managers will retire over the next 15 years, so the £3 million fund is also designed to support organisations to get their succession planning right.

[Click here to find out more and apply.](#)

### New website launches to support digital skills

Digital technology can transform adult social care services, and we're committed to supporting organisations to ensure they're on the right path to becoming 'digital ready'. Digital Social Care is a new dedicated space run by social care providers for social care providers.

A partnership project between Skills for Care, members of the Care Provider Alliance and NHS Digital, it provides advice, tools and support to the sector on technology and data protection. [Visit the website here.](#)





Get involved using **#sfcsocialwork**  
**@skillsforcare**

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