

Northern Ireland



Northern Ireland Social Care Council

Rules for the Approval of Post Qualifying Education and Training for Social Workers and the Recognition of the Attainment of Standards of Proficiency

May 2020 (Revised September 2023)

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The Northern Ireland Social Care Council, with the consent of the Department of Health, makes the following Rules in exercise of the powers conferred by Sections 10 (1) to (4), (7), 10(A)¹ 13 and 18 of the Health and Personal Social Services Act (Northern Ireland) 2001.

Arrangement of Rules

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¹ As amended by Section 4 of the Health and Personal Social Services (Amendment) Act (Northern Ireland) 2016

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Part I

Introduction

Citation, commencement, review and revocation

1. (1) These Rules may be cited as the Northern Ireland Social Care Council Rules for the Approval of Post Qualifying Education and Training for Social Workers and the Recognition of Achievement of Standards of Proficiency, and shall come into force on 31 May 2020.
 - 1.1 The Council may review and amend these Rules from time to time with the consent of the Department of Health.
 - 1.2 The Northern Ireland Social Care Council Rules for the Approval of Post Qualifying Education and Training in Social Work in Northern Ireland 2006 are revoked.

2. Authority

- 2.1 The Northern Ireland Social Care Council (hereinafter referred to as the Council) is a statutory body established on 1 October 2001 by the Health and Personal Social Services Act (Northern Ireland) 2001 (hereinafter referred to as the 2001 Act).
- 2.2 The Council, in the exercise of the powers to approve courses in social work, conferred on it under Section 10 of the 2001 Act² and Section 4 of the Health and Personal Social Services (Amendment) Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 (hereinafter known as the 2016 Act) herein makes the following Rules. These Rules may be cited as the Northern Ireland Social Care Council Rules for the Approval of Post Qualifying Education and Training for Social Workers and the Recognition of Achievement of Standards of Proficiency, and they should be read in conjunction with the “Northern Ireland Social Care Council (Registration) Rules, 2016”.

² As amended by Article 46 of the Health and Personal Social Services (Quality Improvement and Regulation) (NI) Order 2003

3. Interpretation

3.1 In these Rules –

“the 2001 Act” means the Health and Personal Social Services Act (Northern Ireland) 2001.

“the 2016 Act” means the Health and Personal Social Services (Amendment) Act (Northern Ireland) 2016

“Approval” means approval in writing by the Council.

“Assessed Year in Employment (AYE)” means the year of social work practice that new social work graduates are required to complete satisfactorily as a condition of registration on the social work part of the NISCC register.

“Assessment” means formal evaluation of a piece of work against published standards.

“Candidate” means a social worker participating in the Professional in Practice framework.

“Certificate” means a certificate awarded by the Council for the successful attainment of a Professional Award.

“The Council” means the Northern Ireland Social Care Council.

“Courses” means forms of study, provided and/or approved, that may include training courses, programmes of learning, or other activities that meet the Council’s standards of proficiency.

“Credit” means numerical credit given by the Council for professional development activity that has been recorded and verified as meeting the standards of proficiency specified in the Professional in Practice Framework.

“Credit accumulation” means accumulating credits that will be recognised for the requirements of PRTL and can be used to for recognition towards the attainment of Professional Awards.

“External Assessor” means a person who is appointed by the Council to provide independent verification of standards or to oversee approval and assessment recommendations.

“Individual Assessment Route” means the method by which the Council provides for the assessment of individual social workers’ learning and prior learning (AP(E)L), for the purpose of achievement of awards or part awards within the Professional in Practice Framework.

“PRTL” means post registration training and learning requirements specified by the Council for renewal of registration.

“Professional Award” means the NI Consolidation Award in Social Work; the NI Specialist Award in Social Work; and the NI Leadership and Strategic Award in Social Work; delivered at a post graduate level in accordance with the PiP Requirements.

“Professional in Practice Framework” means Professional in Practice - The Framework for Continuous Professional Development for Social Work in Northern Ireland (PiP), which specifies the standards of proficiency to be attained by social workers at different levels of competence, and the arrangements for attaining recognition of these standards leading to accumulation of credit and/or achievement of professional awards in social work.

“Professional in Practice Partnership” means the committee of Council with responsibility for supporting and advising the Council in the discharge of its responsibilities in relation to professional development for social workers in Northern Ireland.

“Provider” means a provider of education and training courses in relevant social work, including universities and higher education institutions and/or training bodies, organisations, agencies, individuals.

“PiP Requirement(s)” means the standards of proficiency

specified for a professional award.

“Standards of Conduct and Practice” mean standards set by NISCC. The standards of conduct describe the values, attitudes and behaviours expected of social workers. The standards of practice outline the knowledge and skills required for competent practice. Together, both sets of standards combine to provide a baseline against which a social worker’s conduct and practice will be judged.

“Standards of Proficiency” means the benchmark statement that describes a professional standard of knowledge, skill or values.

“Transcript” means a document verified by the Council outlining details of achievement of standards of proficiency.

“The Register” means the Register maintained by the Council under Section 3 of the 2001 Act.

“Visitor” means a person who is independent and impartial, appointed by the Council to make reports on the standards of course provision according to Section 13(2) (b) (i) and (ii) of the Act.

4. Publication of the Rules

- 4.1 These Rules will be published on the Council’s website www.niscc.info and in such other manner as the Council sees fit.

PART II

Rules for the Approval of Post Qualifying Education and Training for Social Workers and the Recognition of the Attainment of Standards of Proficiency

5. Professional in Practice – The Framework for Continuous Professional Development for Social Work in Northern Ireland

- 5.1 Professional in Practice – The Framework for Continuous Professional Development for Social Work in Northern Ireland shall provide the professional certificated awards set out in Schedule Two and credits towards the same awards set out in Schedule Three for registered social workers undertaking professional learning and development.
- 5.2 The aim of Professional in Practice shall be to increase the competence and expertise of social workers in order to enhance the quality of social work practice.
- 5.3 Professional in Practice shall support the continuous professional development needs of social workers at all levels of practice and career progression.
- 5.4 It shall support the requirement for social workers to engage in post registration training and learning.²
- 5.5 It will build on learning attained in the Degree in Social Work³ and the Assessed Year in Employment (AYE)⁴.
- 5.6 Professional in Practice shall provide recognition for all professional development activity that is recorded and verified as meeting the standards of proficiency specified in the Professional in Practice Framework.

6. The Professional in Practice Framework shall:-

² NISCC (Registration) Rules Schedule 3

³ Rules for the Approval of the Degree in Social Work, January 2012, NISCC

⁴ DHSSPS Circular HSS (OSS) AYE 2/2015

- 6.1 specify the standards of proficiency to be attained by social workers through courses or other methods of learning;
- 6.2 be capable of supporting the professional development needs of social workers at all stages of their career and in all professional settings and contexts;
- 6.3 recognise the attainment of standards of proficiency by providing credits, transcripts and certificates of professional awards in social work, or by other means determined by the Council;
- 6.4 accommodate the recognition of standards of proficiency alongside academic achievement;
- 6.5 be based on a modular structure that is flexible;
- 6.6 be responsive to the professional practice needs of employers;
- 6.7 be at postgraduate level;
- 6.8 be capable of recognising learning achieved through multidisciplinary training;
- 6.9 comply with any policy, standards, guidance and targets set by the Department of Health.

7. The Council shall appoint a Committee, known as the Professional in Practice Partnership, which shall support the delivery and evaluation of the Professional in Practice Framework.

- 7.1 The Professional in Practice Partnership shall include representatives from social work employers, education providers, commissioners, the Council and other stakeholders determined by the Council;
- 7.2 Members of the Professional in Practice Partnership shall be approved by the Council;

- 7.3 The membership of the Professional in Practice Partnership shall be reviewed not less than, or at least, every five years;
- 7.4 The Professional in Practice Partnership shall have an operational overview of and provide advice to the Council on:-
 - 7.4.1 candidate participation in the Professional in Practice Framework;
 - 7.4.2 progression and achievement by candidates;
 - 7.4.3 outcomes of annual quality assurance activity relating to the Professional in Practice Framework;
 - 7.4.4 gaps in, and priorities for, the provision of post qualifying education and training within the Professional in Practice Framework.
- 7.5 The Council may from time to time vary the functions of the Professional in Practice Partnership.

8. The Council shall make provision for a flexible method to achieve Professional Awards, in accordance with sections 10(3)(a) and 10(4)(a) of the 2001 Act and section 4 of the 2016 Act, through the setting up of an Individual Assessment Route.

- 8.1 The Council shall establish an assessment panel, comprised of members from the Professional in Practice Partnership, their representatives and an external assessor(s), to assess candidates' submissions for all or part of a Professional Award through the Individual Assessment Route.
- 8.2 The Council shall establish an approval panel, comprised of members from the Professional in Practice Partnership, their representatives and an external assessor(s), to approve courses to deliver all or part of a Professional Award.

9. Recognition of the Attainment of Standards of Proficiency

- 9.1 The Standards of Proficiency outlined in Schedule One shall provide a baseline for PRTL and be used to underpin the Professional Awards.
- 9.2 The Standards of Proficiency shall be used to formulate a range of competence requirements for each of the Professional Awards.
- 9.3 The Council shall provide credits for the achievement of PRTL, verified by an employer and achieved through methods of learning other than approved courses.
- 9.4 The Council shall confer certificates for the successful attainment of Professional Awards in Social Work.
- 9.5 The Council shall provide a verified transcript for the part achievement of standards of proficiency leading to a Professional Award.
- 9.6 The Council shall determine from time to time the range and nature of the Professional Awards.

10. Access to the Professional Awards

- 10.1 Certificates for the successful attainment of Professional Awards will only be conferred on those social workers who are registered with the Council or with a regulatory body recognised by the Council as set out in Schedule Four.
- 10.2 Social Workers not registered with the Council on the social work part of the Register must pay any required fees as specified in Schedule Five of these Rules.

11. Approval of Education and Training Courses

- 11.1 The Council shall approve a course only when it is satisfied that the course meets the following Standards for Approval:

- 11.2 There are collaborative arrangements between employers and providers to ensure that a course meets an identified need.
- 11.3 Resources are available for the delivery of a course;
- 11.4 A course should be delivered at a post-graduate level;
- 11.5 There is evidence that a range of stakeholders (including people who use services, carers, candidates, employers, education and training providers) are actively involved at the appropriate stage in the design, delivery and evaluation of the course;
- 11.6 There is evidence that the course meets relevant policy requirements and standards related to the specific area of practice;
- 11.7 The course must reflect a minimum of 100 notional effort hours⁵ and must meet a minimum of one Requirement for the specified Professional Award as set out in Schedule Two
- 11.8 There is an external scrutiny of the assessment process;
- 11.9 There is evidence that assessment is carried out by a registered social worker, approved as an assessor by the course provider;
- 11.10 There is a quality assurance system within the course structure that ensures the maintenance of standards and adherence to the Rules;
- 11.11 There are complaints, appeals and termination procedures in place;
- 11.12 There is accessible information to candidates and employers that includes, course content, assessment methods and detail of time commitments.

⁵ Effort hours may include training inputs, study time, supervision/tutorials, application to practice and assessment

12. In order to seek approval, a Course Provider will submit to the Council an application for the approval of an education and training course in the format required by the Council.

12.1 A Course Provider may offer more than one course. Each course must be separately approved as meeting the Council's Standards for Approval.

13. Subject to any future changes to these Rules, approval of a course will continue unless and until:-

13.1 Approval is withdrawn under Rule 19 of these Rules as provided for by Section 10(3) (g) of the 2001 Act;

13.2 Approval is withdrawn following a request from the Course Provider.

13.3 Where approval is refused, withdrawn or given subject to additional conditions, the Course Provider may appeal in accordance with Rule 20.

14. The Course Provider will notify the Council of any proposed material change in the course provision, including the proposed suspension or closure of the course, and must not make any such change without the Council's consent in writing.

15. The Council may from time to time vary the Standards for Approval. It shall be a condition of approval that courses continue to comply with these Standards, including any changes to them.

16. External Examination

16.1 The Council shall appoint External Assessors to ensure consistency in standards and outcomes between post qualifying courses and the Individual Assessment Route.

16.2 The Council may appoint Visitors in accordance with Section 13 of the 2001 Act, to visit any place or institution where approved post qualifying education and training is provided or is proposed to be provided.

- 16.3 A Visitor appointed by the Council to visit places or institutions where approved post qualifying education and training is delivered may be required to prepare reports on the nature and quality of the instruction or assessment to be given and the facilities provided or to be provided by any place or institution visited.
- 16.4 The Council shall pay External Assessors/Visitors, expenses as specified by the Council and a fee as set out in Schedule Five and agreed by the Department.

17. Provision of Information to the Council

- 17.1 The Council shall require the Course Providers to provide information on any aspect of course provision, including ~~collaborative~~ arrangements, resources, content, delivery arrangements, future plans, evaluation, statistics and any other information the Council may require and within timescales as directed by the Council.
- 17.2 A Course Provider will provide information to the Council at the point of, assessment and completion in the format required by the Council.
- 17.3 A Course Provider must be able to collect and analyse data in respect of:
- Numbers of:
- (i) candidates at each assessment point who pass or are referred, deferred, or withdrawn;
 - (ii) candidates who successfully complete the course
- 17.4 Course Providers will report on the outcomes of any evaluation or formal reviews to the Council as required.
- 17.5 Course Providers must supply the Council annually with:
- (i) the current course handbook;
 - (ii) annual monitoring report;

- (iii) reports on the outcomes of any relevant quality assurance processes, in the education institutions or social work agencies involved in the provision of courses;
- (iv) External Examiner reports and reports on any actions required.

18. Governance and Continuous Improvement

- 18.1 The Council shall satisfy itself on an ongoing basis that Course Providers continue to comply with the Rules and any additional conditions of approval that may apply in accordance with section 10 (2) of the 2001 Act.
- 18.2 The Council shall assess the information and documentation provided by the Course Provider under the Rules for Approval of Post Qualifying Education and Training in Social Work.
- 18.3 The Council will undertake the first formal review of an Approved Course within 6 years of approval, and in the case of academic courses in accordance with the institution's re-validation. Subsequent reviews will take place at intervals of not more than 6 years.
- 18.4 An earlier review may be undertaken by the Council if indicated by the Course Provider's annual report or other sources of information made available to the Council.
- 18.5 The Council shall quality assure any aspect of course provision at regular intervals according to requirements set by the Council and any other relevant quality standards determined by the Council.
- 18.6 All course provision shall normally be quality assured annually and quality assurance processes will involve candidates, employers and teaching staff.
- 18.7 The Course Provider will normally invite the Council to participate in all relevant education provider quality reviews and any other relevant quality reviews relating to any aspect

of course provision and will provide the Council with reports on the outcomes of such reviews and reports and on the outcomes of action plans where these are required.

- 18.8 The Course Provider will satisfy the Council that reports on the outcomes of any quality assurance activity by the Council will be used to inform any relevant quality reviews in institutions or organisations contributing to course provision.
- 18.9 Course Providers will take action on identified areas for improvement and co-operate with the Council to maintain and improve standards of course provision.
- 18.10 If any quality review process, including the Council's own, indicates that a Course Provider is not meeting the Rules, the Council will initiate the following;
- 18.11 The Council shall require the Course Provider to draw up an action plan, with timescales, outlining how and when the identified deficits will be remedied;
- 18.12 If the Course Provider fails to deliver on the action plan and within the timescales agreed, the Council will normally commence a formal investigation.

19. Formal Investigation and Withdrawal of Approval

- 19.1 The primary aims of a formal investigation shall be to establish:
 - 19.1.1 whether a Course Provider is operating within the Rules and any conditions of approval set by the Council; and
 - 19.1.2 if the Course Provider has the capacity to make the necessary improvements to address identified deficits within specified timescales.
- 19.2 A formal investigation may be initiated when:
 - 19.2.1 a Course Provider has not complied with an action plan in accordance with rules 18.11 and 18.12, or

has refused or is unable to do so within a specific timescale acceptable to the Council; or

19.2.2 the Council has enforced rule 18.11 on more than one occasion resulting in findings that the Course Provider has failed to comply with the Rules or any conditions of approval; or

19.2.3 a complaint or allegation of failure to comply with the Rules is so serious as to throw into immediate doubt the continued suitability of the course.

19.3 The Council shall establish an Inspection Team to carry out a formal investigation. Any person deemed to have specialist knowledge of the issues involved may be invited to be a member of the Inspection Team but no person will be involved who is connected with the Course Provider.

19.4 The Course Provider shall be informed by the Council in writing of the decision to hold a formal investigation, including a date for the commencement of the investigation.

19.5 A timetable and process shall be established by the Council, which will take into account any reasonable requests by the Course Provider. The Council shall reserve the right to extend the process if it becomes clear in the course of the formal investigation that further information is required.

19.6 The Council shall present the outcomes of the formal investigation, including its recommendations, in a report to the Course Provider within a reasonable timescale.

19.7 Withdrawal of approval will be the final sanction.

20. Appeals

20.1 The Council will operate an appeals process whereby a Course Provider may appeal to the Council against a decision made in respect of approval, monitoring, review or formal investigation, or withdrawal of approval.

20.2 A Course Provider may appeal against a decision of the Council on the following grounds:

- I. The Council did not take into account material information which was made known to it at the time of the decision; or
- II. New information which could not have been made available at the time of the decision and which materially affects the outcome has since become available; or

20.3 The Council did not observe its own procedures and this failure materially affected the decision.

21. Complaints against the Council

21.1 The Council has a complaints procedure, which may be used by any customer of the Council's services at any time. Copies of this procedure are available from the Council's Head of Corporate Services.

22. Public Record

22.1 The Council is committed to operating systems that are open and transparent to all. Once approval has been granted to a Course Provider, the approval documentation shall become a public record. The Council shall produce an annual report of its governance and continuous improvement activities. This shall include publication of data relating to recruitment, progression and awards and will be a matter of public record.



PAUL MARTIN, Chair

Date 19th July 2023

The Department of Health hereby consents to these rules.



AINE MORRISON Senior Officer (DOH)

Dated this 7th day of September Two Thousand and Twenty Three

The Standards of Proficiency for the PiP Awards

1. Practise professional social work underpinned by the Standard of Conduct and Practice and social work values.
2. Maintain professionalism through development of application of knowledge and research.
3. Continue to develop competence/proficiency in own area of practice.
4. Continue to develop reflective practice and critical analysis.
5. Continue to develop engagement and participation with service users and carers.
6. Continue to develop the assessment and management of risk.
7. Work to achieve change.
8. Continue to develop self and others.
9. Work effectively across networks.

NI Consolidation Award in Social Work - PiP Requirements

The NI Consolidation Award in Social Work has 3 underpinning Requirements and 6 PiP Requirements that describe the range of Standards of Proficiency appropriate to this Award. The underpinning Requirements must be integrated within the PiP Requirements.

Underpinning Requirements

- A. Demonstrate a systematic understanding of their own practice and a critical awareness of current issues and challenges in the context of the NISCC Codes of Practice, professional ethics, the principles of diversity, equality and social inclusion in a wide range of situations.
- B. Use evaluation to systematically develop and improve their specific practice, including implementing effective practice in inter-professional and inter-agency contexts.
- C. Take responsibility for continuing professional development making use of professional and managerial supervision, consultation and other professional support as appropriate to identify and address issues; develop, implement and evaluate plans; and continue to advance knowledge and understanding in order to improve practice.

PiP Requirements

- 1. Develop and consistently sustain in-depth competence within their specific area of practice to agreed national, occupational or recognised agency standards, applying knowledge and experience of relevant service provision with confidence.
- 2. Demonstrate systematic and appropriate application of relevant legislation/policy, theories, research and methods of practice that include a range of skills.
- 3. Demonstrate consistent and sustained sound judgement and decision making in the context of complexity, risk, uncertainty, conflict and/or contradiction

4. Systematically apply knowledge and understanding of service user and carers issues to actively contribute to social support strategies that promote choice, independence and empowerment and which involve service users and carers (where appropriate).
5. Effectively and efficiently manage and be accountable for own work and demonstrate a capacity to plan for and respond to change.
6. Demonstrate confidence in, and promote understanding of, own professional role within networks across organisational and professional boundaries and support others as appropriate to the candidate's level of learning.

NI Specialist Award in Social Work - PiP Requirements

There are 9 PiP Requirements that describe the associated Standards of Proficiency appropriate to this award. To ensure that the PiP Framework reflects progression and career pathways, candidates may transfer up to 3 Requirements from the Specialist Award to the Leadership and Strategic Award if they wish to do so.

PiP Requirements

1. Apply independent critical judgment to systematically develop their own practice and that of others in the context of the NISCC Codes of Practice, professional ethics, the principles of diversity, equality and social inclusion in a wide range of situations.
2. Demonstrate a substantially enhanced level of competence in a defined area of professional practice, professional management, professional education or applied professional research to agreed national, occupational or recognised agency standards.
3. Demonstrate a well-developed capacity of using analysis and evaluation to continuously develop and enhance own performance and contribute to the performance of professional and inter-professional groups, teams and networks.
4. Demonstrate a well-developed capacity to analyse, evaluate and apply relevant and current research evidence including service user research.
5. Using a range of skills and methods of intervention, work effectively and creatively and with initiative in a context of risk, uncertainty, conflict and contradiction where there are complex challenges. Make informed and balanced judgments in the context of relevant policy and legislation.
6. Use a critical knowledge and understanding of service user and carers' issues to develop and implement service user and where appropriate carer' rights and participation in line with the goals of choice, independence and empowerment.

7. Take responsibility for influencing key aspects of complex change processes, including those involving other professions or other agencies.
8. Support, mentor, supervise or manage others including contributing to practice learning opportunities, enabling self and others to identify and explore issues, improve and develop and share best practice.
9. Develop and implement effective ways of working in networks across organisational and professional boundaries, having confidence in own professional role and taking responsibility for identifying, analysing and resolving complex issues, promoting partnership and collaboration, thus ensuring the delivery of integrated and person-centered services.

NI Leadership & Strategic Award in Social Work - PiP Requirements

There are 9 PiP Requirements within the Leadership and Strategic Award which describe the range of Standards of Proficiency appropriate to this award. Candidates may transfer up to 3 Requirements from the Leadership and Strategic Award to the Specialist Award.

PiP Requirements

1. Use independent critical judgement to take a leading role in systematically developing their own practice and that of others in the context of the NISCC Codes of Practice, codes of professional ethics, the principles of diversity, equality and social inclusion in a wide range of situations.
2. Demonstrate a substantially enhanced and sustained level of competence in a defined area of work, taking a leading role in developing and promoting good practice drawing on international perspectives to inform this.
3. Demonstrate conceptual understanding and a well-developed capacity to take responsibility for the use of critical analysis and evaluation to continuously develop and enhance own performance and that of others.
4. Demonstrate a significant contribution to the development, delivery and evaluation of the service provided in a chosen area by demonstrating the ability to research, plan, implement, monitor and evaluate strategies for improvement or change;
5. Work creatively, innovatively and effectively, taking a leading role in the context of risk, uncertainty, conflict and contradiction or where there are complex challenges and a need to make informed, independent and balanced judgments.
6. Take a lead responsibility, using initiative and self-direction, for managing key aspects of complex change processes, including those involving other professions or other agencies.

7. Support, mentor, supervise or manage others exercising leadership to enable them to identify and explore complex issues and improve practice and service delivery.
8. Take a leading role in developing and implementing effective ways of working in networks across organisational and professional boundaries, taking responsibility for identifying, analysing and resolving highly complex issues, promoting partnership and collaboration, thus ensuring the delivery of integrated and person-centered services.
9. Use critical knowledge and comprehensive understanding of service user and carers' issues to actively promote, develop and implement service user and, where appropriate, carer rights and participation in line with the goals of choice, independence and empowerment

NI Advanced Scholarship Award in Social Work-PiP Requirements

There are 9 PiP Requirements that describe the associated Standards of Proficiency appropriate to this award.

PiP Requirements

1. Provide leadership to support a learning culture that drives innovation and excellence in and across organisations, underpinned by strong ethical and cultural competence.
2. Provide leadership to support a learning culture that drives innovation and excellence in and across organisations, underpinned by strong ethical and cultural competence.
3. Improve own performance and help shape practice, research and policy through highly developed critical thinking and reflective skills.
4. Review and synthesise information to develop an evidence based approach to service delivery and service improvement which can be monitored and evaluated.
5. Generate and clearly communicate new and complex information in a way that contributes to professional understanding of risk and supports evidence informed, balanced judgement and professional decision making.
6. Anticipate future directions and present robust evidence to influence policy and practice development across professional, organisational and international boundaries.
7. Use own professional expertise, influencing and supporting others to achieve quality improvement in social work practice.
8. Actively seek multi professional collaboration to create alliances and networks that support the development and implementation of

effective ways of working which promote the unique value of social work.

9. Demonstrate a strong and sustained commitment to engaging service users and carers in the coproduction, design and delivery of person centred social work with improved and agreed outcomes.

Credit Accumulation Formula “2 + 1”

Social workers (claimants) can gain credits from reflection on learning:

1 hour of learning activity + a brief reflective analysis = 2 learning credits.

Additional credit can be claimed by demonstrating impact:

1 credit per hour of learning.

So 1 hour of learning activity + a brief reflective analysis = 2 learning credits + record impact = 3 credits.

Impact means demonstrating application of your learning on the following (choose 1 or more as appropriate):

- Service Users and Carers
- Self (development of new skill/knowledge or further development of existing skill/knowledge)
- Service (e.g. developing and implementing a new service)
- Supplementary (teaching/training, leadership within social work locally or nationally)

NISCC recognises the registration of social workers by following regulatory bodies for the purposes of accessing the Professional in Practice Framework:

1. Social Work England
2. Social Care Wales
3. Scottish Social Services Council
4. CORU – Regulating Health and Social Care Professionals

**Schedule of Fees for the Professional in Practice (PiP) Framework
from May 2020**

**1. Fees for social workers who are not registered on the social
work part of the Council's register:**

1.1 Enrolment Fee

Enrolment Fee - £300 for a period of 3 years.

Retainer Fee = £100 per 3 years thereafter.

2. Fees for Programmes Seeking Approval

Programmes seeking approval are required to pay an
Administration Fee.

Administration Fee = £300

Where an Expert Reader is required to provide subject expertise the
Programme will be required to pay a fee.

Expert Reader Fee = £200

3. Certificate and Transcript Charges

Award Certificates and Transcripts are issued at the point of
achievement to all candidates with no charge.

Re-issuing of Certificates or Transcripts will incur a charge of £30
for candidates who are not registered with the Council.