

Northern Ireland

Social

Care

Council

Professional in Practice (PiP)

Frequently Asked Questions

Last Updated: 31 March 2020

Introduction

As the regulator for social workers and social care workers in Northern Ireland everything we do is focused on supporting high quality care for people who need it. We are all adapting. As the regulator, the Social Care Council remains committed to supporting high quality standards of social work and social care for everyone who needs it. However we understand and know the impact this is having for social workers, social work students and social care workers, as they respond to challenges never experienced before.

We are committed to protecting people who use services while also maintaining public confidence in social work and social care. The onset of the Covid-19 outbreak doesn't change that commitment, but the situation is changing, and will continue to change the way we work. Like other regulators we have made some changes to how we do things. Our approach going forward is based on the core principles of:

- **Minimising the time pressure we impose on registrants and;**
- **Maximising the flexibility for registrants to manage their professional development activities during the challenges of the Covid-19 outbreak.**

The information below outlines the actions we have taken to support registrants, providers and people using services during this time. This document was published on Wednesday 25th March and will continue to be updated as the epidemic and its consequences unfold.

People in our communities are relying on the skills, compassion and kindness of the social work and social care workforces over this challenging period. We want to thank everyone working on, and supporting, the frontline for their professionalism and dedication at this unprecedented time.

General Advice

Frequently Asked Questions



Do you have any general advice about how we should work at this time?

The best place to go for up-to-date information on Coronavirus is the Public Health Agency and government websites, where you will also find more specific information for certain providers of care and support. We also encourage our registrants and employers to use and share our free open access digital [Learning Zone](#) with targeted Covid-19 resources.

Where can I find more advice related to my local area?

For more localised advice, you should first and foremost speak to your line manager or employer who may have more specific guidelines about how you go about your work in a safe and professional way.

As a social worker or social care worker where can I find more specific advice?

First and foremost speak to your line manager or employer who may have more specific guidelines about how you go about your work in a safe and professional way. Also follow Department of Health updates and guidance on their website and on social media.

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I have just submitted an assessment via the Individual Assessment Route. Will that work be assessed?

At this point assessments are taking place online, as normal. You should receive an outcome from your submitted assessment soon. The deadlines around ratification of results, finalising outcomes etc. May change but we will work to get the assessments completed as originally planned and within original timescales. We hope to notify you of your result by mid-May, however this date may change as the impact of the Covid-19 outbreak evolves.

What happens if my submission to the Individual Assessment Route is not successful? Will I be able to resubmit?

Yes, you will be able to resubmit at the next assessment point in October 2020. We are planning for this to proceed as normal.

I am due to complete the 2 PiP mandatory Requirements before my registration renewal date. Will I be able to do that or will my registration be at risk?

We will continue to provide opportunities for registrants to complete their mandatory Requirements. There are a number of routes available to you and you should discuss the most appropriate option with your Agency PiP Rep. If you are in the midst of completing work for the mandatory Requirements you will be supported to complete as planned but if you have concerns consult with your Agency PiP Rep.

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I am currently undertaking a PiP Approved programme. Will I be able to complete my course and gain my professional Requirements?

The university programmes are moving to online teaching to enable PiP Approved programmes to conclude their teaching for current modules and provide teaching for upcoming modules. The course provider will provide you with information about accessing the teaching and the assessment process. If you have concerns talk to the course provider or your Agency PiP Rep.

I am currently on a PiP Approved programme but my employer needs me to engage in additional work as a result of the Covid-19 outbreak. Can my place on the programme be retained?

Individual programmes will have their own arrangements for deferral. On confirmation from your employer, you will be able to defer and return to complete the programme at another time. You are advised to contact the course coordinator. You can find the contact details via the following link:

<https://learningzone.niscc.info/professional-in-practice/64/approved-programme-route>

Can I continue to log my training, learning and development on the portal?

Yes please continue to record and log all training, learning and development that you undertake in your PiP record and claim the PiP Credits if appropriate. At a later stage you may wish to reflect on the impact of the current crisis on your social work practice.

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What happens if I cannot access support from my Agency PiP Rep?

Individual organisations will make their own arrangements which might include online communication only. We advise that you contact your Learning and Development Team regarding their individual arrangements.

<https://learningzone.niscc.info/professional-in-practice/65/agency-representatives-contact-details>

Who do I contact at the Social Care Council about any PiP queries?

Please email the Professional in Practice Team directly at:
PiP@niscc.hscni.net

Further Information

Frequently Asked Questions

Further Information

Our information and services will be reviewed and updated as the Department of Health, NI Assembly and UK Government make new announcements and we will be responding with agility to what is a fast-moving situation.

Our website will be regularly updated.

In the meantime we are grateful and deeply humbled by how the social work and social care workforces along with our health care colleagues are working together to provide the highest standards of care.

For all the most up to date information from the Department of Health visit: <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Contact Us

Frequently Asked Questions



If you have further questions you can contact us directly:

For all new registration application queries and renewals contact:

Registration: Registration@niscc.hscni.net

For account password reset, employer portal access and any other related digital queries contact:

Portal: Database@niscc.hscni.net

For raising concerns and current cases contact:

Fitness to practise: Ftp@niscc.hscni.net

For employer liaison, careers, Degree in Social Work, Professional in Practice (PiP) and learning and development for the social care workforce contact:

Learning and Training: Workforcedevelopment@niscc.hscni.net

For further information: [Contact Us](#).



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