



Education Quality Assurance Documentary Evidence Review Report

University of Kent

Inspection ID: UK38

Course change review

20 December 2019

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Review details

Inspection ID	UK38
Course provider	University of Kent
Validating body (if different)	Click or tap here to enter text.
Course name	BA (Hons) Degree Apprenticeship
Mode of study	Work based learning
Proposed first intake	31/01/2020
Maximum student cohort	45
Review type	Course change
Review team	Beverley Blythe (Inspector) Jane Jones (Inspector) Rebecca Mulvaney (Education Quality Assurance Officer)
Outcome	Approved, no conditions.

About the documentary evidence review

Social Work England completes a documentary evidence review as part of the approval and monitoring of courses to make sure that they meet our education and training standards and ensure that students successfully completing social work courses can meet our [professional standards](#).

During the approval process, we appoint partner inspectors, a profession specific inspector and a lay inspector, along with an officer from the education quality assurance team. The inspectors make recommendations to Social Work England's decision maker.

This is in accordance with Social Work England's [education and training rules 2019](#).

Findings

This documentary evidence review was carried out as a result of the transfer of work in progress from the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC), the former regulator of social workers in England, to Social Work England when it became the new regulator on 2 December 2019.

Prior to the transfer, HCPC had undertaken an assessment of the BA (Hons) Social Work Degree Apprenticeship at the University of Kent via the major change process. HCPC proposed that the university establish a BA (Hons) Social Work Degree Apprenticeship following multiple changes to their currently approved BA (Hons) Social Work.

Following a documentary evidence review by HCPC, it was decided that further evidence was required against one of the standards before the proposed changes could be approved. The condition for approval related to standard 3.1 'the course will be sustainable and fit for purpose'. Further detail of the rationale for this condition and the suggested evidence required can be found in Appendix 2 below.

Social Work England inspectors were appointed on 2 December 2019 to review the evidence submitted by the University of Kent to meet the above condition. Inspectors had sight of the HCPC report, in addition to further evidence including:

- A letter from senior management at the provider, supporting the programme.
- Email correspondence between the University of Kent and Addaction, which is a UK drug, alcohol and mental health charity.
- Email correspondence between the University of Kent and Enfield Council.
- Email correspondence from the University of Kent confirming their student numbers.
- Notification of intention to award contracts (letter) from Kent County Council.

Following a review of the evidence, the inspectors felt that the condition had been met by the evidence provided by the course provider.

They agreed that the minimum number of learners per cohort had been confirmed as 15, and that the maximum number of learners per cohort would be 45.

They also agreed that the proposed learner numbers from employers for the 2020 cohort had been confirmed at a current total of 37.

It was felt that the evidence confirming these student numbers was enough to demonstrate that the programme would secure the necessary apprenticeship funding for a January 2020 intake.

Conclusions

The social worker and lay inspector agreed that standard 3.1 'the course will be sustainable and fit for purpose' had been met by the evidence provided.

They recommend that the University of Kent's BA (Hons) Social Work Degree Apprenticeship is approved with no further recommendations or conditions.

It should be noted that all qualifying social work courses will be subject to re-approval under Social Work England's [2020 education and training standards](#).

Appendix 1 – Outcome by standard

Standard	Met	Met with conditions	Met with recommendations
Course governance, management and leadership			
3.1 The course will be sustainable and fit for purpose.	☒	☐	☐

Appendix 2 – Condition set by HCPC

3.1 The programme must be sustainable and fit for purpose.

Reason: HCPC reviewed the evidence for this standard and noted that the University of Kent has engaged with various providers such as Enfield Council, Addaction and Kent County Council. The education provider said all have pledged learners, subject to the proposed programme gaining HCPC approval.

HCPC was unclear how many learners per cohort the degree apprenticeship programme was to be approved for. There was a reference in the mapping document to a cohort maximum of 45 learners. However, the letter from the head of school referred to a maximum learner cohort size of 30.

HCPC considered the provisionally confirmed numbers to be low compared to the maximum learner numbers they had seen. An email from Enfield Council confirmed six learners. Another email from Addaction confirmed 'one or two' learners. The university did not submit evidence from Kent County Council.

HCPC was therefore unsure whether the proposed programme was viable and sustainable. They required further evidence of the progress made to date in ensuring the programme could secure the necessary apprenticeship funding, confirmation of the minimum number of learners per cohort, and confirmation of the learner numbers from employers for the January 2020 cohort. The HCPC suggested that the University of Kent should provide:

Suggested evidence:

- Evidence of the progress made to date in ensuring the programme can secure the necessary apprenticeship funding;
- Confirmation of the minimum number of learners per cohort for the programme to run;
- Confirmation of the maximum number of learners per cohort; and
- Confirmation of the learner numbers from employers for the January 2020 cohort.

For further information about Social Work England's education and training standards, and how we regulate education and training providers, please visit our [website](#).

For queries about this report, please email enquiries@socialworkengland.org.uk quoting the report reference number.