



Education Quality Assurance Documentary Evidence Review Report

University of York

Inspection ID: YOR40

Course change review

14 July, 2020

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Review details

Inspection ID	YOR40
Course provider	University of York
Validating body (if different)	Click or tap here to enter text.
Course name	MA Social Work MA (Hons) Social Work
Mode of study	Full time
Proposed first intake	01/09/2020
Maximum student cohort	15 per course for MA Social Work 20 per course for MA (Hons) Social Work
Review type	Course change
Review team (appointed after a conflict of interest check)	Bradley Allan (Lay Inspector) Caroline Jackson (Registrant Inspector) Helen Challis (Education Quality Assurance Officer)
Outcome	Approved

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](#).

For all reviews, 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 review was undertaken as a result of a course change request from the University of York received 23 April 2020.

The MA Social Work course is a two-year qualifying social work course which also forms years three and four in a qualifying MA (Hons) Social Work. Modifications are being made in response to student feedback, external examiner feedback and to improve the integration of theory and practice. Consultation regarding these alterations has taken place with people with lived experience of social work (via the Service User Participation Group), local placement providers (York City Council, North Yorkshire County Council and local private and voluntary sector organisations), and Practice Educators. All proposed changes have been approved via the internal quality assurance processes required by the course provider.

The changes aim to improve the structure and pace of the programme, the integration of theory and practice, and the alignment of modes of assessment with integrated approaches to theory and practice. In addition, a new University-wide initiative assuring the quality and design of all programmes, has strengthened programme leadership through the appointment of dedicated Programme Leaders for all programmes in the University. This coincides with the appointment of a new Programme Leader for these courses.

An example of the type of changes can be seen with the module 'Knowledge Into Practice' where students reflect on and analyse their experience of integrating knowledge in their direct practice on placement. Similarly, the new module 'Social Work Across the Lifecourse' integrates theory and practice using a case study approach.

The introduction of a variety of different assessment types reflect the range of skills and application of knowledge required by the Professional Standards. This includes increased use of case study analysis, oral assessment, online tests and poster presentations

All the evidence provided by the University in support of this change request has been reviewed by the allocated inspectors. This includes mapping documents for learning outcomes, professional standards and assessments, as well as documentation linking stakeholder feedback to the proposed changes. The inspectors found that the changes impact positively on course design and delivery and assessments and, thus, continue to directly address the required education and training and professional standards for social work.

Conclusions

The inspectors are recommending that the changes to the curriculum are approved.

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			
3.2 The course will be effectively managed.	☒	☐	☐
Course Design and Delivery			
4.1 The learning outcomes will ensure that students meet Social Work England's professional standards.	☒	☐	☐
4.2 The learning outcomes will ensure that students understand and are able to meet the expectations of professional behaviour.	☒	☐	☐
4.5 Integration of theory and practice will be central to the course.	☒	☐	☐
4.5 Integration of theory and practice will be central to the course.	☒	☐	☐
4.7 The delivery of the course will support and develop autonomous and reflective thinking.	☒	☐	☐
4.8 The delivery of the course will support and develop evidence-based practice.	☒	☐	☐

Standard	Met	Met with conditions	Met with recommendations
Assessment			
6.1 The assessment strategy and design will ensure that those who successfully complete the course meet Social Work England's professional standards.	☒	☐	☐
6.2 Assessment throughout the course will ensure that students demonstrate that they are able to meet the expectations of professional behaviour.	☒	☐	☐
6.3 Assessments will provide an objective, fair and reliable measure of students' progression and achievement.	☒	☐	☐
6.4 Assessment policies will clearly specify requirements for progression and achievement within the course.	☒	☐	☐
6.5 The assessment methods used will be appropriate to, and effective at, measuring the learning outcomes.	☒	☐	☐

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.