

Education quality assurance – Course change review report

Report date:

16/04/2021

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Documentary review details

Inspection ID	UWO382
Course provider	University of Wolverhampton
Validating body (if different)	Click or tap here to enter text.
Course name	MA Social Work
Mode of study	Full time
Proposed first intake	01/10/2020
Maximum student cohort	60
Review type	Course change
Review team	Rebecca Regler – Lay Inspector Christine Stogdon – Registrant Inspector
Review team recommendation	Approval with one condition
Outcome	Approved with one condition

About the review

The university was originally approved for 15 students. Over time the university increased that number, unaware of formal processes around course changes to cohort sizes. That number was then further increased as a result of a surge in applications this academic session, attributed to Covid-19 and a sector wide increase in applications as a result of the pandemic. This means that the university is now seeking approval for their current cohort size of 60 students.

The inspectors have reviewed evidence submitted in support of these changes, including Staff Information documents, job adverts and CVs; Practice Handbook; placement provider information and Course Information document.

Findings

The inspectors reviewed documentation around current staffing, timetables and job adverts; although it was not clear exactly how the new staff would be deployed. Inspectors are satisfied that there will be an adequate number of staff of appropriately qualified staff in place but it is on the assumption that newly recruited staff would work across all programmes and timetable gaps would be met.

Inspectors are satisfied that recruitment of an additional practice educator and work being undertaken in conjunction with placement partners means that there will be adequate number of placements and of appropriately qualified and experienced staff involved in practice based learning for the increase in cohort size.

The documentation and weblinks received and reviewed made references to the previous regulator and indicated that upon successful completion of the course students would be eligible to register with that previous regulator. The university were advised of the references and the inspectors were advised that this had been amended and updated with new links and documents provided. However, not all links and documents were fully updated, some were partially updated and provided information around both current and previous regulator which is confusing and conflicting information for students and potential students. Therefore, approval of the changes is dependent on all websites and documents being fully updated to show Social Work England as the regulator. Wording also needs to be updated around successful completion of the course as this will make students eligible to apply for registration, not eligible for registration.

The review team reviewed documentation showing some involvement of people with lived experience of social work in the course through the SUCCESS group. Information provided was limited and when asked if the university had further documentation they wished to provide, no further information was sent. Therefore, the inspectors recommend that the University review this involvement ready for the introduction of the new 2021 education and training standards and how people with lived experience of social work might have more involvement across the course.

	Standard not currently met	Condition	Date for submission of evidence
1	3.18 The education provider will ensure students, educators and others are aware that only successful completion of an approved course leads to eligibility for	All websites and course documents to be fully updated to show Social Work England as the regulator. Wording also needs to be updated around successful completion of the course as this will make students eligible to apply for registration, not eligible for registration.	16 April 2022

	admission to the register		
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Conclusions

The inspectors are recommending approval with one condition. The condition will have a twelve-month deadline from the date of this report to be completed.

Appendix 1 – Outcome by standard

Standards impacted by the change	Met	Met with conditions	Met with recommendations
Level of qualification for entry to the register			
1.1 The threshold entry route to the register will be a bachelor's degree with honours.	☒	☐	☐
Admissions			
2.1 The admissions process will give both the applicant and the education provider the information they require to make an informed choice about whether to take up or make an offer of a place on a course.	☒	☐	☐
2.5 The admissions process will ensure that applicants are aware of and comply with any health requirements.	☒	☐	☐
Course governance, management and leadership			
3.1 The course will be sustainable and fit for purpose.	☒	☐	☐
3.2 The course will be effectively managed.	☒	☐	☐
3.3 The education provider will ensure that the person holding overall processional responsibility for the course is appropriately qualified and experienced and on the register.	☒	☐	☐
3.4 The course will have regular and effective monitoring and evaluation systems in place.	☒	☐	☐

Standards impacted by the change	Met	Met with conditions	Met with recommendations
3.5 There will be regular and effective collaboration between the education provider and placement providers.	☒	☐	☐
3.6 There will be an effective process in place to ensure the availability and capacity of practice based learning for all students.	☒	☐	☐
3.7 People with lived experience of social work will be involved in the course.	☐	☐	☒
3.8 Students will be involved in the course.	☒	☐	☐
3.9 There will be an adequate number of appropriately qualified and experienced staff in place to deliver an effective course.	☒	☐	☐
3.10 Subject areas will be delivered by educators with relevant specialist knowledge and expertise.	☒	☐	☐
3.11 An effective course will be in place to ensure the continuing professional and academic development of educators, appropriate to their role in the course.	☒	☐	☐
3.18 The education provider will ensure students, educators and others are aware that only successful completion of an approved course leads to eligibility for admission to the register.	☐	☒	☐
Course design and delivery			
4.1 The learning outcomes will ensure that students meet Social Work England's professional standards.	☒	☐	☐

Standards impacted by the change	Met	Met with conditions	Met with recommendations
Practice based learning			
5.1 Practice based learning will be integral to the course	☒	☐	☐
5.2 The structure, duration and range of practice based learning will support the achievement of the learning outcomes and the professional standards.	☒	☐	☐
5.4 Practice based learning will take place in an environment that is safe and supportive for students and people with lived experience of social work.	☒	☐	☐
5.5 There will be an adequate number of appropriately qualified and experienced staff involved in practice based learning.	☒	☐	☐
Assessment			
6.1 The assessment strategy and design will ensure that those who successfully complete the course meet Social Work England's professional standards.	☒	☐	☐