

Education quality assurance – Course change review report

Report date:

20/05/2021

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Documentary review details

Inspection ID	LHU552
Course provider	Liverpool Hope University
Validating body (if different)	Click or tap here to enter text.
Course name	BA (Hons)
Mode of study	Full time
Proposed first intake	06/09/2021
Maximum student cohort	25
Review type	Course change
Review team	Lay Inspector: Sarah Mcanulty Registrant Inspector: Gary Dicken Education Quality Assurance Officer: Helen Challis
Review team recommendation	Approval
Outcome	Approved

About the review

Liverpool Hope University are looking to increase their BA Social Work admissions each year by a maximum of fifteen places. These will be protected places made available to applicants from black, Asian and minority ethnic identities who live within the Cheshire and Merseyside region as social work programmes within this region rarely recruit sufficient Black, Asian and minority ethnic students that reflects the diverse nature of local populations.

These places will be in addition to the current annual target of 25-30 students.

Additional methods of support are planned to tackle barriers these students may face such as specialised support during the practice placement element of the programme.

Findings

The university identified 17 changes being made to the programme. After reviewing the evidence submitted, the inspectors identified that of these changes:

1. Standards 2.6; 2.7; 3.2; 3.8; 3.12; 3.15; 3.16; and 4.1 were a continuation of the university to meet the education and training standards. For example, standard 3.15 where the university indicated that they would be continuing with the current practice.
2. Standards 3.1; 3.5; 3.7; 3.10; 3.11; 3.13 were also a continuation of the university to meet the education and training standards and identified additional improvements to meet the needs of this particular set of students. For example, standard 3.13 with the introduction of mentors from social work practice and academia who identify as BAME.
3. Standards 3.6; 3.9; 5.5 had direct impact on the education and training standards and would require evidence to satisfy the inspectors that the standards would continue to be met as they related to the increase in student numbers.

Supporting evidence was submitted for Standards 3.6; 3.9 and 5.5 pertaining to how the university will manage the increase in numbers. This included:

- An agreement from Liverpool City Council to provide placements required an additional fifteen practice placement opportunities for the third year of the programme.
- Details of the appointment of a new full-time post of professional tutor, who will play a lead role in overseeing the implementation of and ongoing oversight of the new cohort recruited through the widening participation route.
- Commitment from Liverpool City Council to provide 10 additional practice educators per year.
- Agreement from both the Liverpool City Council, the Vice Chancellor of Liverpool Hope University to support this initiative and provide additional resources and support if required.

As members of the Cheshire and Mersey Social Work Teaching Partnership, Liverpool Hope University have asked for support from their partners, with an aim to involve social work practitioners/educators as both mentors and to contribute to the teaching programme.

The inspectors are satisfied that there are adequate numbers of staff and resources to support the additional 15 students for the duration of their course.

Therefore, the inspectors are satisfied that the proposed changes continue to meet Social Work England's Education and Training Standards and recommend that the changes be approved.

Conclusions

The inspectors are recommending approval.

Appendix 1 – Outcome by standard

Standards impacted by the change	Met	Met with conditions	Met with recommendations
Course governance, management and leadership			
3.6 There will be an effective process in place to ensure the availability and capacity of practice based learning for all students.	☒	☐	☐
3.9 There will be an adequate number of appropriately qualified and experienced staff in place to deliver an effective course.	☒	☐	☐
Practice based learning			
5.5 There will be an adequate number of appropriately qualified and experienced staff involved in practice based learning.	☒	☐	☐