

Education quality assurance – Course change review report

Report date:

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Documentary review details

Inspection ID	UPO327
Course provider	University of Portsmouth
Validating body (if different)	Click or tap here to enter text.
Course name	MSc Social Work
Mode of study	Full time
Proposed first intake	01/09/2020
Maximum student cohort	26
Review type	Course change
Review team	Aidan Phillips – Registrant Inspector Sarah Hamilton – Lay Inspector
Review team recommendation	Approved
Outcome	Approved

About the review

The University of Portsmouth are changing the structure and assessment of the MSc Social Work in response to feedback from and consultation with their students. The changes are aimed at balancing the academic workload throughout the course. The changes should also ensure that the academic level is appropriate for postgraduate students. Finally, there is a change in the course leader. The inspectors have received evidence from the university to support how these changes continue to meet Social Work England’s education and training standards.

Findings

On reviewing the documents submitted, the inspectors found:

- a clear rationale for the changes that outlined an even spread of the assessment load across the course; restructure of some modules and a review of the learning outcomes to align more closely with Social Work England's professional standards.
- an overview of the feedback provided by, and engagement undertaken with students on each year of the current programme. This was supported by meeting minutes with student representatives with action points noted, along with the university's policy on course and module changes and student consultation.
- clear documentation that the newly appointed course lead course is appropriately qualified, experienced and on the register. This included a CV and Social Work England registration details.
- that course specifications, new module descriptors, course timetables and staff profiles verified the new learning outcomes would continue to allow students the opportunities to meet the professional standards required. In addition, an outline of the assessment strategy and document mapping learning outcomes to professional standards demonstrated appropriate and effective measuring of the learning outcomes.
- evidence that the University of Portsmouth has course management and wider governance structures in place to maintain the sustainability of the course. This consists of diagrams of committee and course management structures, an outline of course staff responsibilities, and staff profiles.

Conclusions

The inspectors are recommending the changes to the course are approved by the regulatory decision maker.

Appendix 1 – Outcome by standard

Standards impacted by the change	Met	Met with conditions	Met with recommendations
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 professional responsibility for the course is appropriately qualified and experienced and on the register.	☒	☐	☐
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.	☒	☐	☐
3.17 There will be an effective process in place to support and enable students to raise concerns about the safety and wellbeing of people with lived experience of social work.	☒	☐	☐
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
4.2 The learning outcomes will ensure that students understand and are able to meet the expectations of professional behaviour.	☒	☐	☐
4.3 The course will reflect the philosophy, core values, skills and knowledge base as articulated in any relevant curriculum guidance.	☒	☐	☐
4.4 The curriculum will remain relevant to current practice.	☒	☐	☐
4.5 Integration of theory and practice will be central to the course.	☒	☐	☐
4.6 The learning and teaching methods used will be appropriate to the effective delivery of the learning outcomes.	☒	☐	☐
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.	☒	☐	☐
4.9 The course will ensure that students are able to learn with, and from, professionals and students in other relevant professions.	☒	☐	☐
4.11 The education provider will identify and communicate to students the parts of the course where attendance is mandatory and will have associated monitoring processes in place.	☒	☐	☐

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.	☒	☐	☐
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.	☒	☐	☐
6.4 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.	☒	☐	☐