

Education quality assurance – Course change review report

Report date:

24/02/2023

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Documentary review details

Inspection ID	ARU1072
Course provider	Anglia Ruskin University
Validating body (if different)	n/a
Course name	MA Social Work (and PGDip exit award)
Mode of study	Full time
Proposed first intake	01/09/2023
Maximum student cohort	25
Review type	Course change
Review team	Lay inspector - Jo Benn Registrant inspector - Paula Eaton-Perkins Quality assurance officer – Daisy Bragadini
Review team recommendation	Approval
Regulator decision	Approval

About the review

Anglia Ruskin University are proposing to deliver their MA Social Work (and PGDip exit award) at their Peterborough campus. The course is also currently delivered from their Cambridge and Chelmsford campuses. There will be no changes to the course and it will be identical to the courses delivered at the other 2 campuses. They intend to recruit a maximum of 15 students in 2023/24 and then a maximum of 25 students per year from 2024/25 onwards, which represents an increase in the overall approval numbers for postgraduate students at the university. The BA (Hons) Social Work course is currently also delivered at the Peterborough campus.

Findings

The university identified 5 standards that would be impacted by the changes they wanted to implement. After reviewing the evidence submitted, the inspectors identified the following:

1. For all standards, with the exception of standards 3.2, 3.6, 3.7, 3.8 and 5.1 the university showed there was a continuation of their ability to meet the education and training standards.
2. Standards 3.2, 3.6, 3.7, 3.8 and 5.1 were directly impacted by the proposed change and required evidence to satisfy the Inspectors that the university would continue to meet the standards. They related to provision of practice education, staff resourcing and student support.

Supporting evidence was submitted for standards 3.2, 3.6, 3.7, 3.8, and 5.1 to show how the university will manage the course on the new campus and the increase in numbers of students. The evidence submitted and how it relates to each of the standards impacted is explained below:

Standard 3.2 Ensure that they have agreements with placement providers to provide education and training that meets the professional standards and the education and training qualifying standards. This should include necessary consents and ensure placement providers have contingencies in place to deal with practice placement breakdown.

Standard 3.6 Ensure that the number of students admitted is aligned to a clear strategy, which includes consideration of local/regional placement capacity.

The inspectors were provided with evidence which illustrated the rationale for the plan to deliver the course at Peterborough which included an awareness of workforce requirements at a local and regional level. The inspectors were informed that the placement learning tutor is actively seeking and developing additional placements. The inspectors also viewed evidence which provided assurances in relation to effective existing relationships with current placement providers. The inspectors were satisfied that this provided enough information to recommend that these standards are met.

Standard 3.7 Ensure that a lead social worker is in place to hold overall professional responsibility for the course. This person must be appropriately qualified and experienced, and on the register.

The inspectors were provided with evidence which illustrated that there is a designated programme lead to manage the delivery of the programme at the Peterborough campus. The evidence included the programme lead's CV indicating appropriate qualifications, experience

and registration. The inspectors were in agreement that this provided sufficient evidence to meet this standard.

Standard 3.8 Ensure that there is an adequate number of appropriately qualified and experienced staff, with relevant specialist subject knowledge and expertise, to deliver an effective course.

Inspectors reviewed evidence in relation to this standard and were provided with details of a newly recruited member of full time staff to teach on both the undergraduate and postgraduate courses at Peterborough from August 2023. This included their CV. Inspectors were provided with information about how the undergraduate course is currently staffed and were informed that these current staff will also teach on the MA Social Work (and PGDip exit route) course. Inspectors reviewed the CVs of these members of staff and were satisfied that this standard was met.

Standard 5.1 Ensure that students have access to resources to support their health and wellbeing including:

- confidential counselling services;
- careers advice and support; and
- occupational health services.

The inspectors were provided with evidence in relation to the support services available at the Peterborough campus. This evidence included the quality of the provision of services, methods of accessibility for the services, and the range and type on offer for students. They were informed that students are able to access library services, financial advice and assistance, and counselling and wellbeing services. Occupational health assessments are coordinated by a specialist, centralised team across all 3 campuses. The Peterborough campus also has a designated careers and employability advisor. The inspectors were satisfied that this standard was met.

The inspectors are satisfied that there is adequate provision for the additional placements needed, resourcing and additional staff and student support services.

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 this change be approved.

Appendix 1 – Outcome by standard

Standards impacted by the change	Met	Met with conditions	Met with recommendations
Course governance, management and quality			
3.2 Ensure that they have agreements with placement providers to provide education and training that meets the professional standards and the education and training qualifying standards. This should include necessary consents and ensure placement providers have contingencies in place to deal with practice placement breakdown.	☒	☐	☐
3.6 Ensure that the number of students admitted is aligned to a clear strategy, which includes consideration of local/regional placement capacity.	☒	☐	☐
3.7 Ensure that a lead social worker is in place to hold overall professional responsibility for the course. This person must be appropriately qualified and experienced, and on the register.	☒	☐	☐
3.8 Ensure that there is an adequate number of appropriately qualified and experienced staff, with relevant specialist subject knowledge and expertise, to deliver an effective course.	☒	☐	☐
Supporting students			
5.1 Ensure that students have access to resources to support their health and wellbeing including: - confidential counselling services; - careers advice and support; and	☒	☐	☐

Standards impacted by the change	Met	Met with conditions	Met with recommendations
occupational health services			