



Education quality assurance – Course change review report

Report date:

01/12/2025

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Documentary review details

Inspection ID	NTU_1993
Course provider	Nottingham Trent University
Validating body (if different)	Click or tap here to enter text.
Course name	Social Work BA (Hons) – NTU in Mansfield
Mode of study	Full time
Proposed first intake	01/09/2026
Maximum student cohort	20
Review type	Course change
Review team	Michelle Loughrey - Lay inspector Lisa Brett - Registrant inspector Sam Jameson - Education quality assurance officer
Review team recommendation	Approved
Regulator decision	Approved

About the review

1. Nottingham Trent University (NTU) are proposing to deliver their, Social Work England approved, Social Work BA (Hons) course at their Mansfield Hub. Information submitted by the course provider identified that the aim is for this course to provide approximately 20 students with ring-fenced placements and a clearly defined direct route into employment with Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC).

2. The course provider explained that the purpose built NTU Mansfield Hub is located directly next to West Notts College. NTU students from Nursing, Teaching, Criminology

and other subjects have been taught from the Mansfield Hub for the last five years. Members of the university social work team already teach on the approved course, and the same teaching team will be delivering the course, at the Mansfield Hub.

3. Information submitted by the course provider confirmed that the Mansfield Hub has all the necessary facilities to support students, including learning resources, personal tutors, student support services in addition to the usual online provision. The level of study, curriculum, entry requirements, placement provision, resourcing and management remain the same as the NTU city-based course. All related aspects will be the same other than location for delivery.

Findings

4. As part of the course change request process, the course provider was asked to submit a course change mapping document and supporting evidence. In addition to this the course provider was asked additional questions about how the education and training standards would be impacted by the change. Inspector partners were then recruited to review the change and subsequently further evidence requests were made to the course provider and responses and supporting evidence were provided. Within their evidence submission the course provider identified that the following education and training standards have been impacted by the change: 1.6; 2.1; 2.2; 2.3; 2.4; 2.6; 3.1; 3.2; 3.4; 3.6; 3.8; 4.6; 4.11 and 5.1.

5. In relation to standard area 1, the course provider submitted documentary evidence including, but not limited to, the NTU 2025 Study Guide, SW Mansfield Launch 2025, BA SW Mansfield Open Events and the Course Webpage. The inspectors identified that the information is well targeted and highly relevant for potential applicants who will need to decide on whether to take up an offer of a place on the course. The inspectors had a query against standard 1.3 for which further information was sought and provided by the course provider. The Declaration of Conflict-of-Interest Form highlighted that NTU will ask that colleagues from partner organisations must declare any potential conflict of interest, in relation to applicants, that have been asked to interview for the BA/MA social work courses, at the admissions stage.

6. In relation to standard area 2, evidence was submitted by the course provider and included details of how students on the course will spend 80 days on placement in their second year, and 90 days on placement in their final year, including 30 skills days throughout the course. Following the submission of additional evidence the inspectors were assured that placement capacity had been considered and access to quality and appropriate learning, and contrasting, placement settings is in place for this course. Documentary evidence which included the Induction Checklist, Practice Educator Placement Briefing, Learning Agreement Form and Practice Placement Handbook,

confirmed that students will have an appropriate induction, supervision, support, access to resources and a realistic workload.

7. In relation to standard area 3, the inspection team learnt that the governance of this course will be incorporated into the NTU City based Department of Social Work, Care and Community structures. The NTU Quality Handbook provides insight into the framework which governs learning and teaching at the university.

8. The course provider confirmed that they have capacity to provide placements that will be starting in September 2026, with continued work regarding further placement capacity. The decline in MA social work students, both locally and nationally, has resulted in an increase in placement capacity, including availability of practice educators. NCC have not capped their placement provision to the sponsored students on the course and will provide placements over and above the 10 sponsored students in the local area where possible, as identified within the NCC Mansfield SW BA Agreement. NTU works with other local providers who will be providing placements, therefore students will also be placed in the Mansfield, Bassetlaw and Ashfield areas.

9. The inspectors concluded that the documentary evidence provided insight into how NCC social workers will be involved in elements of the course, including but not limited to the Course Management Committee and the Practice Assurance Committee. Initial and additional evidence and information, including the Course Specification, was submitted to the inspectors to assure that there is an adequate number of appropriately qualified and experienced staff, with relevant specialist subject knowledge and expertise, to deliver an effective course.

10. In relation to standard area 4, the inspectors reviewed additional evidence submitted by the course provider that confirmed students will be introduced to the New Companion in Practice Project. This project aims to provide interdisciplinary learning between social work, health and criminology students. Documentary evidence identified that there are Experts by Experience sessions already planned for the autumn term and further opportunities for multi-disciplinary workshops with nursing and paramedicine students. The inspectors were satisfied that practice placements offer a range of opportunities for students to work with other professionals such as health sector colleagues, teachers, police, psychologists, including private and third sector. The inspectors were satisfied that there are appropriately expert, qualified and experienced staff who will carry out assessments for the course, including an external examiner who is registered with Social Work England.

11. In relation to standard area 5, the course provider submitted evidence to identify the wide range of on-line and on-site student support services provided by the university. The services at the Mansfield Hub will replicate the City Hub, including Academic Study Support, Counselling and a wide range of health and academic support services and advice. There are specific teams, such as Disability Support and Dyslexia Support, to



provide targeted student support services. There is also specific work to support mature students and students in marginalized groups. The Teaching Partnership provides support on employability and careers and regular job bulletins.

Conclusions

12. The inspectors are recommending that the change be approved.

Regulator decision

13. Course change approved.