



## Education quality assurance – Course change review report

Report date:

16/01/2026

### Contents

|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Documentary review details ..... | 1 |
| About the review .....           | 1 |
| Findings.....                    | 2 |
| Conclusions .....                | 5 |
| Regulator decision .....         | 5 |

### Documentary review details

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| Inspection ID                  | ARU_2125   |
| Course provider                | Anglia Ruskin University   |
| Validating body (if different) | Click or tap here to enter text.   |
| Course name                    | BA (Hons) Social Work, MA Social Work and BA (Hons) Social Work Degree Apprenticeship  |
| Mode of study                  | Full time  |
| Proposed first intake          | 01/09/2026   |
| Maximum student cohort         | No change from previous student cohort numbers across the different campuses of the course provider.<br>BA (Hons) Social Work - 245<br>MA Social Work – 91<br>BA (Hons) Social Work Degree Apprenticeship - 88 |
| Review type                    | Course change  |
| Review team                    | Jo Benn - Lay inspector<br>Chris Stogdon - Registrant inspector<br>Sam Jameson - Education quality assurance officer   |
| Review team recommendation     | Approval   |
| Regulator decision             | Approved   |

### About the review

1. Anglia Ruskin University have identified that there are two key elements in the changes being made, both in response to feedback from key stakeholders, for their Social Work England approved, BA (Hons) Social Work, MA Social Work and BA (Hons) Social Work Degree Apprenticeship.

2. Information submitted by the course provider identified that the first element of the proposed changes will be to the delivery pattern for students based at the Chelmsford and Cambridge campus, with a shift from delivery across two trimesters to teaching across the whole calendar year and all three trimesters. The course provider identified that this is in response to student feedback about the pressure of the course over two trimesters, and their many conflicting priorities and this is particularly challenging for students with additional needs. The course provider identified that their data suggests that only 30-40% of students are graduating on time, with many requiring placement extensions. They spoke of also recognising issues with progression and continuation and a decline in student success in terms of awards and overall student satisfaction. The course provider explained that their Peterborough campus students, who differ demographically to Chelmsford and Cambridge students, will keep the current delivery pattern of two trimesters, as their feedback did not reflect the need to make changes. The apprenticeship programme is already delivered across three trimesters, with a marked difference in student performance and satisfaction.

3. The second element of the proposed changes is the review and redesign of the courses, including consolidating some teaching content and modules. This redesign has also included a complete review of module learning outcomes, content and assessments for all modules, considering feedback from staff, students and practice partners. The proposed course is mapped to the Social Work England Professional Standards and the Skills England Knowledge, Skills and Behaviours.

4. During the course change process, the course provider submitted some additional information in relation to some minor changes made to the assessment for a few modules submitted as part of this change. These changes have been made as part of their internal review of the level 7 assessments for the recent submission for the new PG Dip Social Work (the inspection for this course is planned for February 2026).

The course provider identified that when the documentation for the PgDip was undergoing internal scrutiny, it was picked up that there was no variety in assessments and that this needed to be addressed. These were amended prior to the submission of the PgDip documentary evidence submission.

The course team explained that as the BA and MA share some modules with the PgDip, they have made similar minor amendments to the assessments for the affected modules. The course provider submitted a summary of the changes made and the relevant module amendment forms.

## Findings

5. 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 a subsequent further evidence request was made to the course provider and responses and supporting evidence was provided. Within their evidence submission the course provider identified that the following education and training standards have been impacted by the changes, 1.1, 2.1, 3.2, 3.5, 3.9, 4.1, 4.2, 4.8, 4.9, 4.12, 5.1, 5.2, 5.4 and 5.6.

6. In relation to standard area 1, the course provider submitted documentary evidence including but not limited to the BA social work course amendment form Oct 2025, BA social work degree apprenticeship course amendment form Oct 2025 and MA social work course amendment form Oct 2025. The inspectors identified that from this review, including, additional evidence provided by the course provider, it was clear that the changes provide a sound rationale and bring the requirements for previous Anglia Ruskin University students in line with those applicants having previously studied at another course provider.

7. In relation to standards 2.1 and 3.2, evidence was submitted by the course provider and included the SW QAPL Audit Final Draft (part 1 and part 2). The course provider identified that there is no impact or change on these standards and how the courses meet the requirements other than the new placement audit tool they have developed and implemented. The inspectors were satisfied that the new placement audit tool is appropriate and suitable in the process of screening placements to ensure that they can meet, and provide, the statutory placement requirements. Placement documentation has been developed to give clearer guidance for students in relation to their progression.

8. In relation to standard area 3, the inspection team were assured that the revised placement learning governance provides clear oversight of placement development and quality at strategic and operational levels including partnership working. The course provider identified that they are developing a student dashboard for monitoring graduate readiness for all their courses, including Social Work. The aim of this will be to enable them to review student progress during the course and quickly identify and respond to any concerns, this project is currently in its development phase.

9. In relation to standard area 4, the course provider confirmed that there will be changes to the delivery pattern for students based at the Chelmsford and Cambridge campus, with a shift from delivery across two trimesters to teaching across the whole calendar year and all three trimesters. Peterborough campus students will keep the current delivery pattern of two trimesters. The rationale is based on student feedback and demographics of the intakes with mature, travelling students at Chelmsford and Cambridge and a more local cohort at Peterborough.

10. In relation to standard 4.1 and the BA (Hons) Social Work, the inspectors learnt that the approved programme has been reworked moving some Level 5 modules to level 4. An ethics focussed module has been reintroduced at level 5 and all module content has been

refreshed and assessments amended to align with new learning outcomes. New modules have been appropriately mapped to the professional standards.

11. Regarding the MA Social Work, the modules have been reviewed and refreshed. There is an increased emphasis on ethics in the newly named Applied Social Work Theory, Ethics and Values module. Safeguarding modules have been consolidated, and all module content has been refreshed and assessments amended to align with the new learning outcomes. New modules have been appropriately mapped to the professional standards.

12. Regarding the BA (Hons) Social Work Degree Apprenticeship, the course provider sent through additional information to confirm that the module descriptor for Level 5 Research, Evaluating Knowledge and Evidence in Practice is the same and consistent across the Apprenticeship and the BA (Hons) Social Work course. As a result of their documentary evidence review the inspectors were able to confirm that all curriculum changes were developed in consultation with employer partners, service users and carers, and students.

13. Regarding standard area 4, the documentary evidence identified that there is now a LGBTQ+ leadership mentor programme in place. Information provided by the course provider also suggests there is a different delivery pattern in place based on student need and demographics.

14. In relation to standard area 4, the inspectors reviewed additional evidence submitted by the course provider that confirmed assessments for every course have been reviewed considering feedback, curriculum changes and developments in AI. All assessments comply with the university assessment and feedback requirements and guidance on AI. There is a varied approach to assessments, and these have been reviewed to reflect real world aspects and skills enhancing knowledge and skill development. Assessments are clearly mapped to learning outcomes and are scaffolded throughout the courses, increasing in complexity, building on existing skills and providing opportunities for development.

15. In relation to standard area 5, the course provider submitted documentary evidence regarding Right to Study, Occupational Health and DBS Suspension. Information contained within the mapping document highlighted that the existing approved processes are still in place. They have introduced new requirements for student engagement with occupational health assessment and DBS clearance, and the new policy outlines consequences of non-engagement within these timescales. They now require students to sign up to the DBS annual update service enabling access to live DBS clearances. The personal development tutoring framework has been updated and adopted a structured approach to supporting development tailored to the students' level of study.

16. Documentary evidence submitted in support of standard area 5 included, a Wellness and Reasonable Adjustment in Placement Plan (WRAPP) form and guidance notes for learners, ARU and practice staff. The inspectors identified that systems and processes



remain largely unchanged but have been enhanced by the introduction of the WRAPP and associated process. This plan adopts a tripartite approach to assessing learner need and reasonable adjustments whilst on placement which will aim to enhance student support.

17. Information submitted by the course provider explained that they have recently introduced a faculty-specific engagement policy. This has been introduced to students from September 2025, with a further launch in January 2026. The attendance policy is designed to align with those of the course providers employer and placement provider partners to encourage students to understand the importance of reporting absence through appropriate mechanisms. At the time of submitting the course change mapping forms and documentation, the course provider highlighted that the policy is currently awaiting the final version, and they are preparing student and staff communications for implementation in January 2026.

## Conclusions

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

## Regulator decision

19. Course change approved.