



**GRADUATE CERTIFICATE in Consolidation
of Social Work Practice
LEVEL 6 - 60 Credits
BMPF6044**

**LEARNER PORTFOLIO
(PORTH AGORED and UNIVERSITY OF WALES
TRINITY SAINT DAVID)**

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Cohort: 18 onwards

Task 1

Developmental review – Part a

Guidance:

This task should be completed by taking into account the work that you will have undertaken since qualifying, and discussions with your mentor and supervisor/line manager as part of your First Three Years of Practice Individual Plan.

Task one (part a and b) should incorporate the use of a model of reflection.

You must meet the Learning Outcomes for this task (see appendix 5 of the handbook).

Please answer the question below.

Question:

Using a reflective model critically reflect on your professional development since qualifying as a Social Worker. Make reference to the supervision, training, learning and research that has impacted on your work. Based on this and continuing to use a reflective model outline what you have identified and agreed with your manager and/or mentor for your development over the coming 12 months. You must demonstrate how you intend to meet all of the following learning outcomes:-

- applying analysis in assessment to inform interventions;
- working collaboratively with people in need of care and support, their carers and other professionals;
- intervention and application of professional judgement in increasingly complex situations.

750 words (+/- 10%: include your actual word count at the end of each section).

For the purpose of this task, I will be utilising Schon's (1991) reflective model which focuses on three concepts, that include, knowing in action, reflection in action and reflection on action.

In my first year as a social worker, I was based within the Family Intervention Team (FIT), which is a Child Protection team within children's social services. Within this role I have been able to acquire a practical knowledge and understanding of the Social Service and Well-being Act 2014 (SSWBA, 2014) which is the main legislation used when working with Children and young people in Wales in respect of their safety and well-being.

Applying analysis in assessment to inform interventions.

My role within FIT is to attend Initial Child Protection Case Conferences (ICPCC,) and if a child is deemed to be at risk of significant harm the case is allocated to myself to continue further safeguarding assessment work with the child/ren and families to try and minimise risk. Initially I was apprehensive as I didn't feel confident within the case conference arena and needed to enhance my analysis skills in this area of work due to this being a significant task within my job role. Assessments are at that heart of social work practice as they help us understand an individuals or child's needs which then informs the appropriate methods of practice and interventions for help and support (MaClean & Harrison, 2011). The team are allocated a variety of assessments which involve having to use your own initiative, not make assumptions and gather information whilst using your own professional judgement. Within supervision with my Senior Practitioner, I was able to use the reflective model and recognise my own lack of confidence and self-doubt within my practice. Therefore, by attending Conference and Core Group Training I will gain knowledge, and having a greater understanding of the processes, to apply analysis in future assessments to inform interventions. I also intend to observe more Case Conferences, as I am aware that it is my responsibility to ensure I enhance my skills and knowledge to inform my future practice. (Thompson,2015)

Working collaboratively with people in need of care and support, their carers and other professionals.

The most recent legal framework for this role is the Social Services Well-being Act (2014) and one of the five principles focuses on Co-production when working with individuals to have better outcomes. In order to work in this way through the child protection process, parents and professionals must work in a multi-disciplinary way, by attending meetings such as core group meetings, sharing information, carrying out home visits which could be joint with other professionals for the best interest and safety of a child. Working in collaboration is essential if individuals, families and children are to be provided with a range of support and interventions they require in a timely manner, and to ensure they understand the role and responsibilities of the professionals involved in their support (SCIE, 2010). Within the ICPCC a Care and Support Protection plan is created for professionals and parents to work together in achieving positive outcomes and reduce risk to their children (Ferguson,2011). It is important that social workers

can work effectively with parents by being open and honest about the Child Protection processes and make use of good communication and a non-judgemental approach in order to reduce barriers and build on a trusting working relationship. I recognised as a newly qualified social worker I was questioning my competence in this area due to the lack of experience and confidence. On reflection I can acknowledge the requirement to develop good communication skills and collaborative working. In order to progress within my practice, I will shadow others, but also enquire about professional's roles or other agencies to improve joint working. I will also include having case discussions with my supervisor and manager regarding Joint Section 47 training.

Intervention and application of professional judgement in increasingly complex situations.

We are sometimes required to prepare a court reports due to a child/ren being at continued risk of significant harm, this involves analysing their circumstances, reflect on historical information, using professional judgment and a giving a recommendation. I am mindful that working within a role whereby I am required to use my professional judgement daily, work independently depending on complexity, I need to develop more confidence to articulate my professional judgement, challenge and be challenged on my professional opinions. I intend to do this by keeping good records, having what matters conversations to ensure I capture the daily lived experience of the child, work with other professionals to inform my assessments so that any recommendations and professional judgments are accurate and fair. For me to develop more skills in this area of assessments and analytical writing for court documents I will apply for the court skills training via Work Force Development Training and have regular case discussion and reflect on my practice within supervision. According to Banks (2015) it is important for social workers to engage in supervision and reflective practice as it is required to maintain accountability and needed to improve practice.

Word Count – 800