

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

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

Learner's name: Ceri Rhiannon Roberts

Email address:

cerirhannonroberts@gywnedd.llyw.cymru

Learner's University Registration Number:
2418947

Cohort: 21 onwards

Task 1

Part a

Developmental review

Guidance:

Task 1 part a asks you to use a model of reflection to reflect on your past practice and future developmental needs. It should be completed by taking into account the work you have undertaken since qualifying. In discussions with your mentor and/or supervisor/line manager identify your future developmental needs as part of your First Three Years of Practice Individual Plan under each of the 3 learning outcomes below.

You must meet the Learning Outcomes for this task (see appendix 4 of the handbook).

Please answer all elements of the question below.

Question:

Using a reflective model critically reflect on your professional development since qualifying as a social worker. Based on this and in discussion with your mentor/supervisor/line manager go on to identify and justify your future developmental needs over the coming 12 months under **each** of the 3 Social Care Wales (SCW) learning outcomes listed below providing at least one developmental need for each of the learning outcome below:

1. Applying analysis in assessment to inform interventions.
2. Working collaboratively with people in need of care and support, their carers and other professionals.
3. Intervention and application of professional judgement in increasingly complex situations.

This task must make reference to how the supervision, training, learning and research has and will inform your practice.

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

During my first year in practice, I gained experience from working as a social worker in the children's team. I've worked as part of this team for 8 years but as a support worker. I feel that I had knowledge for the systems in my local authority, from simple IT systems to knowing what teams and resources that are available. This gave me an advantage that I was able to get to put my social work degree into practice more or less immediately. On the other hand, I do see it as a negative as colleagues felt that I knew what I was doing, I did not need an in depth induction and was not able to shadowing colleagues for as long as I needed. On reflection, the jump from support worker to student is hard but feel that the jump to qualified social worker is harder than I thought.

It has taken a few months to settle, to gain confidence and I am reflecting much more on my day-to-day practice which improves my accountability, use theory in my practice and ensures ethical decisions in complex case.

The reflective model that I have chosen to use is the Borton's Model of Reflection. This model focuses on three simple questions: "What?", "So what?" and "Now what?". The "What" is the description of what happened; during my first year of practice of working as a social worker in the children's team. The "So What?" is the understanding of why it's significant and what do I understand. The last question of the model is the "Now what?" which looks on the future and what I could do differently.

Learning needs that I identified when applying analysis in assessment to inform intervention is when working through the court process. When thinking about Borton's Model of Reflection and the first stage of "What?" I have no previous involvement in being part of the court process therefore the whole experience was new. During my first months with the children's team, I did shadow a colleague during a court hearing. The court environment felt quite daunting, and I did not understand the etiquette of being in a court room. I did not understand most of the jargon and came out of the hearing with a long list of words or abbreviations that I needed to research.

With the "So What" stage of the model it made me reflect on why I need to understand the process better and how significant it is to my role as a social worker. Having knowledge, understand and experience with the court process is essential as part of the children's team.

The last stage of the model which is the "now what?" I will discuss in supervision the possibility for me to have a family that will be going through the court procedure. I will ask colleagues for examples of reports and assessments and write them myself to gain constructive feedback in order to develop my assessing skills further. I will also enrol myself on a training course that will develop my understanding of the court process.

Learning need that I have identified when working collaboratively with people in need of care and support, is working with the NHS and in particular the Community Mental Health Team (CMHT). During my degree one of my placement was with the Children and Young People's Mental Health team (CAMHS) therefore I have some knowledge and understanding on the process and NHS systems. With the "So What" stage of the model it made me reflect on experience with CAMHS, and what I found when working with any agencies whether social or health, that there is always jargon and different process that I need to understand and follow. Although we are supposed to work collaboratively with the same families, and usually for the same outcomes; to keep families together if safe to do so. The last stage of the model is "Now What?". I will organise a meeting to build relationship with the team, ask advice and guidance of their systems and how we could best work collaboratively in order to get the best for our families. I will also discuss in supervision to gain further knowledge and experience as well as read research papers to broaden my understanding.

The last learning need that I identified when using professional judgement in increasingly complex situation is when completing a Section 47 investigation. I have little understanding and knowledge of the process. My aim is to gain knowledge and understanding of the process under "So What" part of the model. I will then move to "now what" by aiming to complete my Achieving Best Evidence course, Joint Enquiry Investigation training as well as shadow colleagues and discuss any assessment I complete in supervision and with colleagues. This is to ensure that I receive

constructive criticism to ensure that I can improve and develop my skills further as a social worker for the “now what”.

Word count - 825

Task 1

Part b

Developmental Review

Guidance:

Task 1 part b is a 2-part question and a continuation of task 1 part a and you **must** refer to a reflective model in this task.

Please ensure that you meet the required learning outcomes for this task (See appendix 4 of the handbook) and that you answer both parts of the question.

Please answer all elements of the question below.

Question

Use a reflective model to critically reflect on the learning needs you identified in task 1 part a under each of the 3 SCW learning outcomes.

This must include reference to training, learning, research and supervision and reflection with your mentor/supervisor/line manager on the extent to which your learning outcomes has been achieved.

Identify your learning needs to support your development in the transition to becoming an experienced practitioner in your future career following the completion of this programme.

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

By using the same reflective model as I used in task 1 part A, which is the Barton's Model of Reflection. I used this model to reflect on my journey during my first year in practice. This model makes me focus on the questions of “What?”, “So what?” and “Now what?”. This is linked to the three learning outcomes which are assessment, professional judgement and collaboration.

By using the “what” of the model I wanted to better my knowledge and understanding of the court process and assessment, work collaboratively with the Community Mental Health Team and use my professional judgement when conducting a Section 47 investigation. For the “so what” part of the model, during the past year I have worked hard to better my skills and knowledge as a social worker and feel that I have excelled with some aspect of my work. I felt that I had less understanding of the court process and how to apply an analysis in an assessment. I completed “Writing Court Reports” training, shadowed and read colleagues’ reports and observe them in the court room. I was privileged to be asked to write a Section 37 report and present it in court so early on in my career. I also had to take the stand and was cross examined which was a frightening and enjoyable experience in one. I learnt a lot during this time as I was open and honest with the family, therefore when I was cross examine in court everything that said I had already shared with the family. On reflection I feel that by sharing the report and being open and honest with the family made me more comfortable in what I was saying. I used my time within supervision to ask questions and to reflect on my practice with my manager which I felt was valuable.

When working collaboratively I wanted to have a better relationship with the Community Mental Health Team (CMHT). Over the years of working within Social Service I feel that our work cross over so much but sometimes I feel that we work to our own agenda. I feel that we should be working closer together in some cases as the mental health of the parents that we work with influences their ability to parent. Therefore, I set up face to face meeting with some of the workers so that we could get to know each other and put a face to a name. A few months later the team moved into the Headquarters and while I was there, I knocked on the door to say hello and met some of the workers there. This got rid of the barrier, and I felt comfortable in picking up the phone for advice if I needed.

To develop my professional judgement, I attended the Achieving Best Evidence Training. In my opinion is one of the best trainings that I have completed and felt that I took away lot of valuable skills that I could use in my day to day work and not just using in a police interview. I also attended the Joint Enquiry Training which I felt was valuable because some of the Paediatric Consultant were there, and this helped to build relationship as well as getting a better understanding of what they needed from us as social worker when completing a Child Protection medical.

For the "Now What" part of the model I feel that although the formal model of the Porth Agored has come to an end I still need to better my skills, knowledge and understanding. I vouch to continue learning and develop as a social worker and I would like to proceed in completing assessment for court to further develop my skills.

Word: 622

Question

Reflect on feedback that you have received from individuals in need of care and support and/or their carers and explain how this information has helped shape your practice and future professional development.

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

During a visit with a parent, I was discussing the progress that the family have made and what outcomes still needed to be reached under the Child Protection process. The Mother shared that I used a lot of jargon, and she wasn't able to understand everything that I was discussing. On reflection, I agreed that I had unintentionally used jargon and felt that my practice was a little lazy. In my future practice I am more mindful of not using jargon when talking to families, and other profession outside social work.

Words:91 words

Total task 1 part b 750 words (+/- 10%: include your actual word count at the end of each section)