

**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: 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).

I am going to use Jasper's reflective model, (2013) to enable me to reflect on my first year in practice as a qualified Social Worker. I feel this reflective model is a precise way to reflect on my professional development and identify future developmental needs over the next 12 months.

Throughout my first year of practice, I have had opportunities to manage complex caseloads, which has included the need to apply analysis in assessment to inform interventions. I have had opportunities to work within legislative guidelines and complete assessments; outlined in the Social Services and Wellbeing Act (2014) and Wales Safeguarding Procedures 2019 (Social Care Wales). I have built on my skills to gather information from individuals and professional (due to safeguarding concerns) to enable me to assess the best intervention required to ensure the safety and well-being of children and young people are prioritised. Whilst I feel I have built on my ability to gather information, throughout my first

year I was requested to complete a Section 7 Reports as directed by the Court. I feel I lack experience and knowledge when completing these reports and at times can feel overwhelmed that my professional opinion will determine when children are able to see their parents and for how long. I recognise the immense responsibility of this role and to ensure my professional recommendations remain impartial. Section 1 of the Professional Codes of Practice (Social Care Wales) promotes the rights and interests of individuals and carers. I feel that this can cause conflict when working with families when they do not always agree on your professional recommendation. To enable me to build on my ability to apply analysis within my assessment, I plan to work alongside experienced social workers when completing Section 7 reports; enabling me to shadow visits, observe interactions and questions that are asked and critically reflect with the social worker I shadow. I plan to utilise my supervision to explore my strengths within assessment writing and identify areas to improvement to enable me to read on past assessments I have completed and identify changes to improve my analysis. I plan to identify with my manager that if a section 7 report is requested I work alongside an experienced social worker, allowing me to lead on the assessment but to have ongoing support when needed and peer mentoring. I will identify any suitable training that comes up within my local authority; particularly report writing and analysis.

Within my first year of practice I have identified the importance of collaborative working; with families and professionals. I have experienced working with people to build a care plan using a joint approach; sharing the responsibility to support a care plan to promote better outcomes. Lord Laming highlighted the importance of joint working when safeguarding children and young people and included joint working as part of his recommendation in The Victoria Climbié's Enquiry (p360, Laming, 2003). I have recognised my role requires a joint approach, particularly in more complex situations.

An area where I feel I can develop my learning further and build my confidence is managing cases where Unaccompanied Asylum seeking children (UAS children) are being allocated to my Local Authority. I have recognised an increase of UAS children being in need of support and feel I lack experience in this particular area and linking with many other professionals and local authorities.

To support me to develop my learning I hope to utilise supervision to gain advice and guidance on the policies and procedures that apply to UAS children, particularly their rights. I plan to read literature on the increase of UAS children and Government policies (Welsh Government, 2021); and the different professionals involved. I plan to discuss with my manager to be allocated a UAS child, to enable me to gain experience first-hand with the ability to seek support and guidance from my manager, supervisor and team who have those links with other professionals such as other local authorities, where the children enter the country, translators, advocates, foster carers, Police, health, education and families from other countries. I plan to explore further training also, particularly age assessment training.

Another area I hope to develop further is my experience and knowledge when completing Section 47 Joint Investigations (S47 JI), outlined in the Children's Act (2004). I will be completing S47 JI, now I am 1 year qualified. I recognise the complex situations that arise from S47 JI and the requirement of professional judgements. I hope to access the Achieving Best Evidence training that focusses on S47 JI and interviewing witnesses (Ministry of Justice, 2022). Before I complete S47 JI, I plan to shadow other qualified social workers completing S47 JI, following this I plan to read their written reports to identify the structure of the reports and how to manage complex situations. I plan to use my supervision to reflect on my time shadowing and identify my own style of working ensuring I am within legislative guidelines.

Word count; 822

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).

To critically reflect on my last year as a social work practitioner and the learning needs, I previously identified in Task 1 part a, I am going to use Jasper's reflective model (2013). Over the past year as a social work practitioner, I feel that I have grown as a practitioner, in knowledge, skills and confidence. I feel I have been able to experience new professional situation allowing me to learn from them to put into practice in my future career.

I have had the opportunity to complete a further section 7 report requested by the court in the last year. The challenges experienced from conflicting recommendations from family members have continued, whilst this has continued, I feel that I have gained the skills to manage these difficult conversations with family members and explain the safety of the child is paramount (Children Act 2004), and whilst they may not agree, my recommendation is following detailed assessments being made. I have had opportunities to reflect on my report writing and professional decision making within supervision as well as reflect how conflicts with parents impact me emotionally. Whilst I have not been able to shadow social workers completing Section 7 reports, I have been able to utilise peer mentoring groups and support from line managers who have supported me through the process of report writing and giving evidence within the private family court process. I have expressed an interest to attend court report writing to my manager to further support me in my practice and will apply to attend when this training becomes available.

I have had the opportunity to be allocated a case where I was required to place an Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Child (UASC) in London, upon reflection I underestimated the amount of multi-agency working that came along with this and felt overwhelmed. I found supervision particularly helpful in supporting me to prioritise tasks, seek support

from my team and advice from managers. I was mindful that along with a child's rights as a looked after child under the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014, this child also had rights set out by the Welsh Government (2021) for asylum seeking children. I faced a moral dilemma where I did not feel the young person was under the age of 18 years of age. This was a struggle for me as I understood this person to have fled a poverty-stricken country, but also had a professional obligation to share these concerns due to safeguarding concerns for other children within the foster home. Support from my team was significant to me during the experience allowing me to have a safe place to reflect and recognise within this job there are going to be moral and ethical dilemmas I will face as a practitioner.

The third area of progression I hoped to improve was undertaking Section 47 joint investigations. I have had the opportunity to access a two week training course on Achieving Best Evidence interviews (Ministry of Justice, 2022), spent several months shadowing social workers experienced in completing section 47 and read report write ups from the shadowing experiences I completed. I feel I have built on my knowledge and skills enabling me to confidently complete Section 47 and build strong professional relationships with the Police joint investigation Team. My professional curiosity has grown and ability to have an open mind when it comes to assessing immediate risk with children and young people. I hope to continue to grow on my experience and develop a set of direct work tools to enable me to further improve the effectiveness of communicating with children on traumatic experiences they have had, focussing on nonverbal tools.

I have been on a significant learning journey over the past year within my practice and will continue this as my professional practice grows.

(Word Count: 627)

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).

Over the past year I have received positive and critical feedback. One individual shared they felt I interrupted them, this came as a shock to me; this was not something I felt I did and actively tried to avoid.

Following this I reflected on my delivery and how I interact with others. I recognised that my perception of how I interact will differ from the individual's experience of me. I feel this feedback, although difficult to hear has supported me to be more mindful of my interaction with individuals and ensure they have time to talk uninterrupted. I feel this feedback has improved my interaction with individuals and made me more mindful of my approach.

(Word count: 115)

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

(Total word count: 742)