

## **Sheffield Hallam University**

### **Department of Social Work, Social Care and Community Studies**

#### **Practice Educator Programme**

##### **Introduction**

The Sheffield Hallam Practice Educator Programme is well established and has been developed to cover all elements of the practice educator role; teaching, mentoring, supervising, and assessing. The course is delivered by academic staff from the Department of Social Work, Social Care and Community Studies, all of whom have extensive experience in practice education.

The content has been designed and developed to allow candidates who are Registered Social Workers to meet the learning outcomes detailed in the Domains of the Practice Educator Professional Standards (PEPS). Full details of the Practice Educator Professional Standards can be accessed via the link below.

<https://www.basw.co.uk/system/files/resources/peps-for-social-work.pdf>

The course is delivered online or face to face over five days and is non accredited (attendance only), however the course includes a number of formative tasks that are to be completed during the course. On successful completion of the course a certificate of attendance is given to candidates. Once the PEPS candidate is allocated a student on placement, they can begin working towards meeting the PEPS learning outcomes, via a portfolio route that is managed and assessed by Sheffield Hallam University.

##### **Course Aims**

- To enable practitioners to plan, implement and facilitate learning in partnership with learners and others in the community of practice.
- To enable practitioners to develop skills in supervising, teaching, and assessing learners.
- To promote practitioners' knowledge and understanding of adult learning theories and the impact of this in a supervisory and assessment context.
- To promote critical evaluation of personal and professional development as an educator.
- To promote an understanding of the role of a practice educator on contributing to an organisational learning culture.

## **Course Learning Outcomes**

By the end of the course participants will be able to

- Define the scope of the practice educator role within the professional context, and how to manage power and authority with learners.
- Understand principles of learning theories and justify the application of these for promoting effective supervision and support to develop a student's skills and knowledge and approaches to lifelong learning.
- Plan, implement and facilitate learning in the practice placement setting, working in partnership with learners and others in the community of practice.
- Demonstrate a sound understanding of assessment in practice learning and how as a practice educator you assess practice and provide feedback against agreed criteria.
- Work with learners who are experiencing difficulties, including where practice is marginal or failing, and adhering to agreed procedures.
- Evaluate the learning experience, seeking feedback from learners and others, to inform future placement learning activity.
- Critically reflect on practice and identify future development needs as a practice educator through formulating SMART action plans.

## **Indicative Content**

- Context of social work education and training.
- Good practice in planning and managing learning opportunities, involving learners and others in the community of practice.
- Creating an effective and positive learning environment.
- Adult learning theories to support practice learning and change.
- Promoting principles of anti-oppressive and anti-discriminatory practice learning.
- Recognising learner's circumstances and how these may impact on learning and assessment.
- Methods of teaching and learning.
- Models and methods to facilitate reflective supervision.
- Managing a fair and transparent assessment of students in practice.
- Working with marginal and failing students.
- Principles of giving honest and timely feedback.
- Report writing.
- Evidence based practice.

- Professional development planning.

## **Delivery**

The Course is delivered over five days by a team of Sheffield Hallam University academic social work staff. A range of teaching and learning methods, including group work, case studies and experiential exercises are utilised to enable course participants to enhance their knowledge base and to explore the impact of their own personal and professional value system when teaching, supervising, and assessing the practice of others.

## **Who Should Attend**

Social workers, who wish to train as a practice educator, with at least 2 full years' post qualifying experience at the start of the practice education training programme. Practice educators must be registered social workers and be able to demonstrate that they are practicing at PCF Experienced Social Worker level in their practitioner role (BASW, 2020).

Course dates and details of how to apply can be accessed via the following link.

<https://www.shu.ac.uk/health-social-placements/profession-information/social-work-social-care-and-community-studies/practice-educator-and-practice-assessor-preparation-and-support>

## **Course Fee**

Please refer to the Social Work Placement Website for course fee information.

## **Practice Educator Professional Standards (PEPS)**

Practice Educators, once the course has been completed, will be required to work towards meeting all Domains of the Practice Educator Standards with the support of a PEPS Stage 2 Mentor/Assessor. SHU has a framework in place to support practice educators achieve both PEPS 1 and PEPS 2.

PEPS requirements, including PEPS Domains, can be accessed via the following link.

<https://www.basw.co.uk/resources/basw-england-practice-educator-professional-standards-social-work-peps-2022>

Detailed guidance for PEPS candidates, following the Sheffield Hallam University route can be accessed via the following link.

<https://www.shu.ac.uk/health-social-placements/profession-information/social-work-social-care-and-community-studies/practice-educator-and-practice-assessor-preparation-and-support>

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