

Social work assistant

Proposed job role and functions

Social work assistants (SWA) support the coordination and management of cases and support social workers to carry out statutory responsibility within their role. SWAs may contribute to risk assessments and contribute to statutory work supporting individuals subjected to statutory orders and have a caseload, however the accountability for this work rests with the qualified social worker.

A SWA is likely to:

- always work under the direct guidance and support of a qualified social worker and supervising manager
- participate in partnership working
- assist in contributing to assessment of needs and risks as required
- support needs and risk assessment outcomes to reduce levels of risk to individuals
- contributing to the development of care/action plans.
- maintain service user/carers contact as required.
- engage with families and carers
- ensure risk assessment and risk management procedures are followed to promote safe working practices
- develop and sustain effective relationships with individuals ensuring to work towards improved outcomes.

Proposed qualification requirements

We recommended there is an academic and practice qualification requirement for social work assistants.

The proposed academic qualification requirement is:

Certified knowledge - An award of certificated knowledge with 96 academic credits at or above SCQF level 7

OR

HNC Social Services

AND

The proposed practice qualification is the:

SVQ Social Services (Children and Young People) at SCQF level 7/ SVQ Social Services and Healthcare at SCQF Level 7

The proposed qualifications for social work assistants are in line with residential childcare workers.

Proposed Registration fee

All registrants must pay a fee. The proposed registration fee for social work assistants is set at the same level as the registration fee for practitioners which is currently £35 (fees are subject to change).

You can [see all our current registration fees here](#)

You can [read about proposed changes to registration fees here](#)

Proposed Continuous Professional Learning (CPL) requirements

CPL is necessary for the development of everyone who works in social work, social care and the children and young people workforce. CPL supports a workforce that is capable of designing, delivering, evaluating and improving high quality care and service.

You will have to show that you have engaged in CPL every year and you will be asked to undertake relevant learning which covers all of the core learning elements in the CPL model. We propose that CPL is in line with the requirements of workers who are registered on the social care and children and young people parts of the Register.

You can find out more about [the core learning elements and CPL requirements here](#)