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Title: Social Work Specialist Practice  
 Status: Definitive  
 Code: **7107SWMAP** (123745)  
 Version Start Date: 01-08-2021  
 Owing School/Faculty: Nursing and Allied Health  
 Teaching School/Faculty: Nursing and Allied Health

Team	Leader
Simon Ward	Y

**Academic Level:** FHEQ7      **Credit Value:** 30      **Total Delivered Hours:** 125  
**Total Learning Hours:** 300      **Private Study:** 175

**Delivery Options**

Course typically offered: Semester 1

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	25
Seminar	25
Workshop	75

**Grading Basis:** 50 %

**Assessment Details**

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Essay	Essay	4,500 word essay	100	

<b>Competency</b>	Social Work placement practice
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**Aims**

*To enable students to understand the complexity of specialist practice in social work and develop the associated skills*

### *The placement component of the module*

- *enables the effective use of knowledge, skills and values within complex situations in a social work setting*
- *enables the demonstration of professionalism through the appropriate engagement with supervision and support*
- *enables working with people and situations where there may be no clear cut solutions*
- *enables students to evidence their proficiency at the appropriate level as set out by the Health & Care professions Council's Standards of Proficiency (SOP 1-15) and the 'End of Last Placement/completion of qualifying programmes' level descriptor, Professional Capabilities Framework – Levels for Student Social Workers.*

### **Learning Outcomes**

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Critically review the skills base for anti-oppressive, specialist social work practice
- 2 Synthesise social policy and legislative developments in specialist social work practice.
- 3 Critically explore key theories in relation to specialist practice
- 4 Critically explore the evidence base for aspects of specialist social work practice
- 5 Demonstrate the ability to work effectively within organisational frameworks and partnerships, and contribute to their development
- 6 Behave as a professional social worker, committed to personal development and leadership
- 7 Apply social work values and demonstrate a critical understanding of the application of social work knowledge and skills in practice
- 8 Recognise diversity and demonstrate the ability to apply anti-discriminatory and anti-oppressive principles in practice
- 9 Recognise the importance of promotion of human rights and social justice and economic well-being and apply them in practice
- 10 Demonstrate the ability to undertake critical reflection and analysis to inform professional decision-making

### **Learning Outcomes of Assessments**

The assessment item list is assessed via the learning outcomes listed:

Essay	1	2	3	4						
Social Work placement practice					5	6	7	8	9	10

### **Outline Syllabus**

*1. Theory and practice related to specialist areas of social work including working with: children in care - including consideration of their rights, substitute families – adoption and fostering, child sexual abuse/child sexual exploitation, asylum seekers*

*and their families, human trafficking, people with physical disabilities, people with autism, use of interpreters, social work responses to dementia and self-harm and suicide*

*2. Safeguarding*

*3. Key psychological concepts related to human growth and development for specific service user groups*

*4. Understanding the legal mandate and key social policy in specialist social work including the social worker and the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards [DOLS]*

*5. Assessment procedures in specialist social work with an emphasis upon barriers to making accurate assessments, both personal and environmental*

*6. Inter-professional practice in the specialist arena*

*7. Ethical standards (with reference to the HCPC and BASW codes of ethics) and anti-oppressive practice in a contemporary social work setting*

*8. Working in partnership with service users and carers*

*9. Advanced communication and engagement skills*

*10. Professional accountability and responsibility in specialist practice*

*11. Communication with parents including those with learning, mental health difficulties children and within inter-professional groups.*

*12. Dealing with resistance to engagement and hostility.*

*13. Understanding and using research in relation to practice*

### *Placement outline syllabus*

*In line with the Health and Care Professions Council Standards of Proficiency and the Professional Capabilities Framework the placement component of this module will enable students to evidence the effective use of knowledge, skills and values in a more complex social work setting. They will demonstrate proficiency working with people and situations where there may not be simple clear-cut solutions. This will be facilitated through:*

- Supervision of the student's work in the agency.*

#### *Placement*

- Initial Induction programme at the Agency*
- Opportunities to observe and shadow other workers in the Agency.*
- Reflection on practice, practice supervision and theory linked to practice to support the student's learning.*
- Opportunities to develop social work practice skills through the allocation of work, which is appropriate to the level of development of the student.*
- Delivering work which meets the requirements of the assessment schedule for Placement.*

#### *Recall Days*

- Groupwork Skills*

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- Working creatively with conflict*
- Research in practice*
- Effective Supervision*
- Job applications and interviews*

*This module includes 15 days skills training.*

## **Learning Activities**

The students will receive a series of lectures and seminars relating to different specialisms. The methods of delivery will include role play, case discussion and group work. These will be supported by the use of different learning technologies and consolidated by the specialist skills training sessions. These will include the input of service users, carers and practitioners.

The 100 day placement component of the module is completed in a placement setting with one full placement preparation day at university and 4 recall day sessions (these 5 days are located under 'seminar' hours in the module proforma) that provide students with the opportunity to link their academic learning with concurrent practical experience. A Practice Learning Agreement is drawn prior to (or during the induction period) the placement commences. The placement begins with a period of induction and training; the student will be allocated appropriate work. Learning is supported and facilitated through close links between placement provider, practice educator and LJMU. Supervision with the practice educator will be complemented by lectures at University. Dialogue with and observations by colleagues will also form part of the assessment and provide opportunities for professional development. Feedback from service users will be an integral part of the student's learning process.

## **Notes**

The module enables students:

- to understand the complexity of current specialist approaches to social work practice
- to critically evaluate the roles of practitioners working with service users, their families and carers in a range of service delivery areas, e.g. disability, child care, mental health, people with learning difficulties, older people
- to introduce students to a number of key theoretical ideas, social policy, legislative developments and processes which underpin specialist social work practice
- to examine assessment, safeguarding and protection procedures in specialist social work practice
- to develop an understanding of the need to work within professional ethical frameworks

To incorporate the 15 day skills training requirement in year 2, there is an emphasis upon combining practical social work skills relating to communication, interventions, etc. with academic knowledge. A related aim will be to assist students in becoming more confident in their work and where appropriate take the lead / be imaginative in their interventions, while at the same time being aware of the complex relationship between research, theory and practice.

Students are required to attend all of the skills sessions and if for any reason a session is missed there is a requirement to complete a 500 word written task on the

subject which will reflect the session that hasn't been attended.

The placement element of the module aims to ensure that students meet the 'End of Last Placement/completion of qualifying programmes' level descriptor outlined by the College of Social Work's Professional Capabilities Framework – Levels for Student Social Workers.

The placement component of the module must be passed independently of the academic assignments.

The module is mapped to the knowledge and skills statements (child and family social work and social workers in adult services)

The University acknowledges that there may be occasions when a student's performance in assessment may be severely affected by unforeseen or unexpected circumstances. Such events include sudden acute illness or close personal bereavement. Any extension requests must be discussed with the Module leader prior to the submission date.

For information about extensions and the Extenuating Circumstances Process please visit: [www.ljmu.ac.uk/about-us/public-information/student-regulations/guidance-policy-and-process](http://www.ljmu.ac.uk/about-us/public-information/student-regulations/guidance-policy-and-process)