



## **UWE Placement and Practice Learning Update** December 2020

Last updates July & September 2020

**This is coming out to you as a Practice Learning Co-ordinator, however, I would be grateful if you could circulate to your Practice Educators and Supervisors who have UWE students.**

Dear all,

I hope you are keeping safe and well.

It continues to be a busy time in terms of placements for this academic year and I thought now was a good time to send an update on Placements, Teaching, Managing Practice Learning (MPL) and Pebblepad training.

### **Placement**

**Most Level 3** placements have now commenced (we still have 11 waiting), some are location based with some working from home, whilst others have moved to all WFM. In addition, a number were later starting and this will have an impact on finish times. This impact could be for both you as the provider, as you may be having students from other courses starting, and for the students there is a potential impact on academic work. For those students that have delayed starts we have been having meetings to try and keep them up to date with placement progress, and a group has also been created to support students with commencing and getting ahead on their dissertations.

**Most Level 2** placements have also commenced (we still have 10 waiting). Most are out in practice, with some working virtually, especially during this last lockdown. Again a number are starting later and there is a potential impact for them as well as you as placement providers.

### **Think Pacific**

We have introduced a split placement (20/50 level 2 & 20/80 level 3). This is a virtual internship with [Think Pacific](#). UWE has a well-established partnership with Think Pacific, however, this will be the first year's involvement for Social Work. We will therefore undertake a review and feedback to you during 2021.

## Teaching Level 2

Due to the later starts we have had to review what modules are running and when in semester 2. The two modules are Law & Knowledge and Theory & Research, both commencing in February. To reduce the impact on placements, and following consultation with students, it was decided to have a second condensed run of the latter module in May/June, thus enabling students who were later starters to be out in placement for at least 3 days per week.

### *Theory and Research*

**Run 1** will be on Wednesdays and will start on Feb 17<sup>th</sup>. It will run for 8 weeks with a break for the Easter vacation (March 31<sup>st</sup> and April 7<sup>th</sup>). The last session will be April 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Run 2** will be on Thursdays and Fridays starting on the 13<sup>th</sup> May. The dates will be May 13/14<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> and June 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup>.

### *Law and Knowledge*

Dates: 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, February, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> March, 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> April.

### *Reflective Practice in Social Work*

There are normally 4 university days that count towards the 70 practice days, however there will be at least two extra half days for those not going out until January.

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January and Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February – 10.00 – 1.00 – I suggest the afternoons are used for the students half day study for these weeks.

These extra sessions are at the requests of students who felt they needed a refresh of expectations and the use of Pebblepad. If any Practice Educator or Supervisor for these students wish to attend, they can. If they contact me I will send a link [Kate.bramford@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:Kate.bramford@uwe.ac.uk).

## Module Schedule

I had completed the Module Schedule for both Level 2 and 3 and this was circulated previously. Due to the staggered starts this year, students have been asked to amend them to reflect their individual timescales and to share with PE/PS when they have done this.

## **Portfolio Submission**

Portfolio submission for both levels is 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021, this later date is to allow for delayed starts and therefore later finishes. However, students should aim to have their Pebblepad portfolio completed as close to placement completion as possible and once completed it should be submitted. Students should not wait until the submission date.

## **Pebblepad (On-line Portfolio)**

The Learning Technology Team have been working hard and have produced a number of resources to assist in the use of Pebblepad and these can now be found on [Practice Support Net](#) but more specifically the [Pebblepad](#) section.

A Pebblepad event was recently held for Practice Educators and Supervisors, facilitated by Rob Lomax (Senior Lecturer in Social work) and Robyn Weeks (Learning Technologist). Approximately 30 people attended.

## **Changes (Reminder)**

### **Written Tasks**

We have removed the two written tasks in the portfolio from both level 2 and 3, and some of the content these covered will now be incorporated into other module written assignments. The context analysis will remain, with more focus on the students own learning about the service users content. The observations remain an academic, as well as a practice piece of work, and should always include legislative and policy context, issues of identity for both the student and service user, anti-oppressive discussion/practice, service user and carer feedback, models of intervention and social work theory. Everything should be referenced.

### **[Absence Line and Online Timesheets \(Reminder\) Link to Practice Support Net](#)**

We have moved to full use of the absence line and on-line timesheet for the 2020/21 academic year for both level 2 and 3. This means that the students will, in addition to informing the placement, have to contact the absence line when they are not going to be attending placement. The on-line timesheet must be completed weekly and will require the supervisor/practice educator to also sign

off each week. This system is used by other professional courses and experience indicates it is a much more robust mechanism for recording placement hours/days. Having a concrete record of student attendance should hopefully cut down queries about the total number of days completed and therefore speed up payment being authorised to agencies.

### **Level 1 - 4 day observation of Social Work practice 2021**

I will be writing out to PLCs in January regarding the above, but thought it might be helpful for you to get the dates in your diaries.

**Dates:** Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup>, Thursday 4<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

**Number of students to allocate:** 50

Students at Level 1 are going to have a Pebblepad portfolio for their 4 days. This will include a placement form, confidentiality statement, context analysis and a written observation. This **will not** result in any additional work for the social worker they are shadowing. The module leader for Developing Professional Social Work Practice, will review and sign off.

### **Learning and Development**

#### **Managing Practice Learning**

A second MPL course has commenced on-line and is being delivered in conjunction with Somerset County Council (thank you to Holly and Lizzie for their support with this).

#### **OSPE/S ongoing support**

UWE OSPE/S support session: Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2020. This is for those that work within Lizzie Clarkes remit.

### **Staff Changes**

Tillie Curran our Programme Lead is retiring after 27 years at UWE and Des McDermott will be taking over as Programme Lead from the 10<sup>th</sup> December 2020.

## **Festive Season Closure**

The University will be closing from Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020 for two weeks, returning Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021. This is to confirm that no Social Work students should be out on placement during this time.

I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Social Work team, to wish you all well for the festive season, and sincerely hope that 2021 is a more settled year.



Finally, thank you for all your hard work during this particularly difficult year.

Kind regards

Kate Bramford

Senior Lecturer Social Work