



The Professional Development Award in Practice Learning (Social Services) Information for Potential Candidates (Version 3)

What Does the Award Do?

The award equips you with the knowledge, skill and confidence to be a practice educator in the rapidly changing world of modern social services in Scotland. You will emerge as a leader in learning. You will know how to create an environment for learning, how to support learning in a social services practice context, how to establish effective working relationships for the benefit of learners and how to facilitate learning and assess learners. You will consolidate your commitment to evidence based practice and develop skills in the evaluation of learning programmes.

Who is it for?

This award supports learning across the whole of the social services workforce. It is for anyone who is registered with the Scottish Social Services Council or is potentially registerable with them.

In particular this award is for those who:

- ◆ mentor and coach learners on formal and informal learning programmes
- ◆ are involved in assessment processes with learners and colleagues
- ◆ are involved in teaching and facilitating knowledge, skills and ethical approaches relevant to practice
- ◆ work with others to identify, organise, facilitate and support learning in the workplace
- ◆ use an innovative range of models of supervision
- ◆ have a role in quality assurance mechanisms associated with learning and development
- ◆ are concerned with Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) and Post Registration Training and Learning (PRTL) mechanisms within the workforce



Why Should I do it?

This is an exciting new award that will take learning in the social services into a new era. It combines social work practice education with organisational development, workforce planning, leadership theory and human resources. This unique range of perspectives will enable you to develop highly marketable skills and knowledge for your future career.

This is an accredited course with the Scottish Qualifications Authority ([SQA](#)) at SCQF Level 10 (Honours degree level). It is also the first of the specialist social services awards to be offered by the Scottish Social Services Council which means that the successful candidate will also be awarded the Practice Learning Qualification (Social Services).

What's Involved?

Tayforth are supporting the first pilot programme which will be delivered in three parts. The first part comprises individual and group study. In this stage you will complete six short assignments. To support your learning there are four taught modules delivered at monthly intervals and four action learning sets as follows.

Module One	Pair of group learning days Action Learning Set Assignments for each unit (1200 words)
Module Two:	As above
Module Three:	As above
Module Four:	Pair of group learning days Instructions for critically reflective assignment (6000 words)

In the second part you will work with a learner. During this stage an assessor will help you with your work and evaluate your practice. In part three you gather evidence of your practice and complete a critically reflective assignment. The assignment should be completed within 6 months of completing your work with a learner. If this is not possible, an assessment review can be held, to explore and resolve any barriers to completion. Normally, however, candidates will complete the award within 12 to 18 months of starting.

How Much Does it Cost?

The cost of this initial pilot programme will be £600 per candidate. For smaller voluntary organisations a reduced fee may be negotiated. There will also be an expectation that employers provide 'in kind contributions to supporting the programme.

When Does it Start?

The course is due to begin in mid September 2008.

How Can I Get a Place?

To get a place you will need well developed communication and inter-personal skills and be able to demonstrate your ability to critically review and consolidate knowledge, skills, practice and thinking in your discipline. This may be demonstrated by relevant professional qualifications at SCQF level 9 (or equivalent) or above with relevant experience in a social services or other relevant setting.

Agencies will develop their own ways of nominating candidates but final decision on selection will rest with the Network's multi-agency PLQ(SS) Delivery Board.

How Can I Find Out More?

Your local learning and development team can tell you how your own agency is planning to nominate and support potential candidates. For more information about the award itself please see SSSLN Tayforth website or contact one of the following:

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