



BASW
England

The professional association for
social work and social workers

Introduction to QAPL Refresh 2021

Carried out by BASW Practice Educator Professional Standards Subgroup
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Background

- In December 2019 Social Work Regulation moved from the HCPC to Social Work England.
- This brought about a range of changes which resulted in the need to up-date various documents and processes aligned with HCPC Standards.
- QAPL- Quality Assurance in Practice Learning was one such document, the second edition of which had been developed in 2012, by the College of Social Work, Skills for Care and the General Social Care Council.

QAPL Refresh

In the Autumn of 2020 BASW set up a working group tasked with refreshing the 2012 QAPL document.

The Working Group's primary objectives were to produce a document which:

- continued to provide a Quality Assurance Framework for those involved in planning, implementing, monitoring and reviewing social work practice learning and
- enabled Programmes to demonstrate how they meet Social Work England's Standards and Guidance relating to Practice Placements

Social Work England Guidance on Practice Placements

Monitoring, evaluation and improvement

- **3.5: Ensure that regular and effective monitoring, evaluation and improvement systems are in place, and that these involve employers, people with lived experience of social work, and students**
- **You could collect data for evaluation by:**
- **Using the quality assurance bench-marking statements and monitoring tools as set out in Quality Assurance for Practice Learning (QAPL), published by the British Association of Social Workers (BASW) in 2012.**

(SW England guidance 2021)

QAPL Refresh

In developing the revised QAPL Refresh the BASW Working Group adopted the following principles:

- **alignment with the Social Work England Standards**
- **emphasis on the on-going dynamic nature of quality assurance**
- **flexibility and responsiveness**
- **permissive not prescriptive.**
- **a macro and micro perspective of quality assurance**

QAPL Refresh

The Document is in two parts:

1. The Introductory framework which provides the context and guidance on its use
2. A range of templates/exemplars which relate to different stages of the placement quality assurance process.

Whilst the Framework is semi-permanent the templates/exemplars are intended to be flexible and responsive. Programmes can amend and adapt the templates/exemplars changing terminology or format to produce bespoke versions which meet their particular needs.

The templates/exemplars can be reviewed annually and up-dated on BASW web-site to accommodate innovation, good practice and be responsive to unforeseen events

QAPL Refresh - consultations

The Working Group members brought with them a great deal of expertise and experience around practice placements, the student experience, quality assurance and practice education.

Members of the Group, who are also part of key social work education and quality assurance organisations such as Skills for Care, Social Work England, NOPT and Teaching Partnerships, were able to consult with and discuss draft proposals with these organisations as the model was developed.

QAPL Refresh - consultations

- The Group was also able to draw on the expertise of people who experience, at first hand, the quality of social work placements and social work services.
- People with lived experience of social work, students practice educators and social workers made important contributions and ensured that a range of perspectives about practice placement quality were integrated into the final documents.
- The Group are particularly grateful to colleagues from Kent and York who worked closely with individuals representing people with lived experience of social work.

QAPL Refresh the 10 exemplars/templates

1. Standards Matrix matching SW England Guidance with the QAPL
2. New Placement Review
3. Review of tried and tested Placement
4. The Practice Learning agreement
5. Interim placement Review Report
6. Final placement report
- 7a End of placement feedback from practice educators
- 7b End of placement feedback from students
8. Practice Panel (practice assessment panel).
9. HEI/Programme placement evaluation review integrated into HEI QA processes.
10. Consideration at Regional level about the quality and sufficiency of placements and practice educator training support and recruitment.

Implementation, monitoring and review

The QAPL Refresh will be launched in the Autumn of 2021 when the out-of-date 2012 QAPL document on the BASW web-site will be replaced with the 2021 refresh version.

Feedback from Programmes regarding its application will be reviewed after it has been in operation for a year.