

SCDSW16

Agree plans where there is risk of harm or abuse



Overview

This standard is for social workers working with individuals, families, carers, groups and communities. Where risk of harm or abuse has been investigated and confirmed, plans to address the risk must be agreed as a matter of urgency within a multi-agency framework. While the initial focus must be on securing short-term safety, therapeutic objectives must also be addressed. These will include identifying the least damaging plan of action for the short term and planning for restorative approaches, where possible, in the longer term. The standard covers these areas in the context of collaborative multi-disciplinary working.

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

- P1 analyse from the outcome of an **investigation** the degree of risk to a person, to their immediate or extended network, or to the community
- P2 collaborate with the person, those close to them, colleagues and professionals from other disciplines to develop a plan that will protect the person, those in their networks and the community
- P3 support the person to be as fully involved as possible in the planning process
- P4 negotiate agreement on the least restrictive and least damaging plan of action that will offer short term safety in respect of the risks evidenced
- P5 develop a long-term therapeutic plan to restore or continue to provide protection
- P6 review plans with others at agreed times
- P7 make changes to the plan in response to the trajectory of the intervention in consultation with others
- P8 produce professional records and reports to document plans, progress, changes to plans and outcomes

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 international legislation, its relationship to UK **policies** and social work practices
- K2 UK legislation, its relationship to national **policies** and social work practices
- K3 national legislation, its relationship to **policies** and social work practices
- K4 statutory and professional codes, standards, frameworks and guidance; their relationship to social work policy and practice
- K5 the characteristics of the home nation, its language, culture, geography and institutions
- K6 theories underpinning our understanding of social issues from psychological, sociological and criminological perspectives
- K7 theoretical and research based critiques of the relationships between legislation, **policies** and social work practice
- K8 social work as a profession, including historical accounts and contemporary issues
- K9 the nature, role and mandate of the social work relationship, including professional and ethical boundaries
- K10 principles, theories, methods and models of social work intervention and practice
- K11 **factors** commonly associated with social work involvement
- K12 your own background, experiences and practices that may have an impact on your social work practice
- K13 principles of risk assessment and risk management
- K14 techniques for problem solving and innovative thinking
- K15 principles of conflict management
- K16 the nature of conflict and post-conflict impact on society
- K17 working in your organisation: principles, procedures and professional practices
- K18 formal requirements for legal and other external processes
- K19 the purpose of working with other professionals and agencies
- K20 the remit, functions, ethos and responsibilities of disciplines and

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organisations involved in multi-disciplinary work

- K21 the cultural and language context of the individual, family, group or community
- K22 local multi-disciplinary and organisational procedures for investigating harm or abuse
- K23 types of harm or abuse
- K24 indicators of potential harm or abuse
- K25 common features of perpetrator behaviour
- K26 indicators of hostility, resistance or disguised non-compliance
- K27 legal and statutory powers and responsibilities that may be exercised in order to safeguard individuals, families, carers, groups and communities
- K28 the range of resources available within informal networks, within the wider community, through formal service provision and through innovation
- K29 how to express written information with accuracy, clarity, relevance and an appropriate level of detail
- K30 legal and organisational requirements for recording information and producing reports
- K31 legal requirements, policies and procedures for the security and confidentiality of information
- K32 principles of reflective practice, critical thinking and learning
- K33 how and when to access informal support in the course of practice
- K34 sources of feedback that may inform reflection on practice and critical thinking

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Additional Information

Scope/range

Social work practice with individuals, families, carers, groups and communities in a wide range of contexts including statutory and non-statutory social services, community development, criminal justice and educational welfare

Scope/range related to performance criteria

The **investigation** may have been any formal investigation such as a child protection investigation, a vulnerable adults investigation, a mental health assessment, a probation assessment, a criminal investigation

Scope/range related to knowledge and understanding

Policies may include those relating to social care, safe-guarding, re-settlement/community re-integration, criminal justice, migration and asylum, education, health, housing, welfare benefits, diversity, discrimination and promoting the independence and autonomy of adults, children, families, groups and communities

Factors may include substance misuse; mental health; frailty; physical ill health; physical disability; learning disability; sensory needs; migration and asylum; poverty; adults or children at risk of harm or abuse; children in need; difficulties around schooling; ethnic or other minority group status; offending behaviour; public protection

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Values

Adherence to the regulatory codes of practice applying to social workers and the values embedded in them

Skills

- 1 plan courses of action to achieve identified outcomes
- 2 communicate in an open, accurate and understandable way
- 3 adapt communication for a range of audiences
- 4 facilitate each person's use of language and chosen form of communication
- 5 maintain the trust and confidence of individuals, families, carers, groups and communities
- 6 work effectively with those whose views or values conflict with your own
- 7 negotiate with others to achieve agreement in complex situations
- 8 challenge others when necessary, in ways likely to achieve change
- 9 apply critical thinking to information from a range of sources
- 10 analyse and synthesise complex information
- 11 apply creative thinking to resolve complex problems
- 12 make professional judgements about complex situations
- 13 use your own interpersonal and other skills and knowledge as a resource
- 14 apply person centred approaches
- 15 balance person centred outcomes and the well-being of others
- 16 exercise assertiveness, power and authority in ways compatible with social work values
- 17 produce records and reports that meet professional standards
- 18 access and use information and communications technology systems for the collection, storage and dissemination of information
- 19 access and use professional supervision and support in situations beyond your own knowledge or experience

Links to other NOS

This NOS links closely with:

SCD SW 13 Investigate harm or abuse

SCD SW 14 Plan in partnership to address short and longer term issues

SCD SW 15 Agree risk management plans to promote independence and responsibility

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External Links

This NOS links with regulatory codes of practice applying to social workers.

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