



## Social Work Consultant Offer for Adult Social Care April 2025

### Our Role

Social Work Consultants are experienced and qualified social workers whose role it is to support students, apprentices, newly qualified social workers, social workers and team managers to improve social work standards and good quality practices across the city, whilst ensuring statutory duties are fulfilled.

They offer support and advice around access to continued professional development opportunities and take the lead role in ensuring newly qualified social workers enrol onto the Assessed and Supported Year in Employment (ASYE) programme and are appropriately supported throughout with the necessary functions for moderation being in place.

Social Work Consultants contribute to the overall development of the Adult Social Care workforce by promoting social work identity, progression of the [Knowledge and Skills Statement \(KSS\)](#) and [Professional Capabilities Framework \(PCF\) | BASW](#) standards, engaging in activity to strengthen supervision processes and career development pathways. They promote Local Government standards for social workers and draw information and knowledge via engagement with regional and national social work forums. They also facilitate regular social work forums locally for our social workers and assist in addressing any Social Work England registration issues.

They champion Practice Education, overseeing student placement arrangements and supporting practice educator development. They also support alternative routes into social work, enabling apprentices and qualified social workers returning to practice. They also engage with external partners within the Greater Manchester Social Work Academy Teaching Partnership, to share knowledge of best practice learning models, remain up to date with teaching standards, develop and update policies /frameworks. This also includes joint working with Higher Education Institutes so that the local need is understood and can be responded to for the appropriate development of social workers within Manchester City Council.

**Our offer to all North, South and Central Adult Social Care Teams  
(INT, Citywide, LD and Hospital)**

- Act as convener for local Community of Practices: gaining insight into the effectiveness and barriers, completing maturity self-assessment and escalating to the maximising independence steering group for resolution.
- Support chairpersons with the delivery of local Safeguarding Practice Forums
- Distribution of information regarding learning and development opportunities.
- Support and advise on career pathway and continued professional development.
- Briefings to teams regarding key change.
- Facilitation of Social Work Practice forums.
- Facilitation of Mental Capacity forums.
- Support reflective supervision sessions on request where there are competency issues.
- Support and advise social workers on CPD requirement for annual Social Work England registration renewal.

### **Our offer to Greater Manchester Mental Health Trust**

- Meet regularly with the GMMH Professional Lead and Divisional Leads for Social Care to discuss and aid development of social work practice standards within the Trust.
- Support with the transition of ending the s75 agreement.

### **Our offer to Newly Qualified Social Workers**

- Provide information and advice for all aspects of the ASYE programme.
- Arrange for all newly qualified social workers to be enrolled on the university ASYE module.
- Facilitate support groups for both NQSWs and assessors.
- Provide ASYE assessor role to NQSWs where necessary.
- Support with any challenges and mediation when required.
- Provide 1:1 support to assessors and NQSWs with portfolio progress.
- Facilitate internal ASYE panel for moderation and provide feedback.

### **Our offer to Practice Educators**

- Provide information and advice at all stages of Practice Education qualification.
- Contribute to the delivery of the universities 5-day training programme and Greater Manchester Teaching Partnership Conference and work toward bringing the programme in-house.
- Facilitate monthly support group for all practice educators (with or without students on placement).
- Provide offsite Practice Educator role to social work students on placement.
- Provide stage 2 mentorship to Practice Educators in training.
- Support with struggling students when necessary, providing advice, attendance at concerns meetings, mediation and tutor liaison.

- Attendance at Greater Manchester Practice Educator panel to assess portfolios for Stage 1 and 2 of Practice Education Professional Standards.
- Process honorary payments.

### **Our offer to Social Work Apprentices**

- Support with initial enquiries around selection processes.
- Provide information and advice regarding all elements of the SW apprenticeship programme and practice standards.
- Provide mentorship role where required.
- Facilitate quarterly support group to apprentices.
- Facilitate quarterly support group to mentors/managers.
- Attendance at Employer Liaison Meetings with host university to keep abreast of key changes and support available for apprentices and their mentors.

### **Our offer to Management Team**

- Contribute to the review and development of policy and practice guidance.
- Attendance at workforce development meetings to advise on workforce development needs.
- Peer support, advice and escalation of any practice standards or well-being issues to Senior Management.
- Contribution to quality assurance processes.
- Support Principal Social Worker to deliver on annual work plan by engaging in various workstreams.

### **Referral to SWC process**

Request for Social Work Consultant involvement for any aspects of social work practice support which is outside of the above stated remit should be sent in writing by email to:

[adultsocialworkconsultants@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:adultsocialworkconsultants@manchester.gov.uk)

Referrals will be discussed with Principal Social Worker and SWC team where length and frequency of support and SWC capacity to undertake work will be considered.

The outcome will be informed to the referrer.