



BASW
England

The professional association for
social work and social workers

Practice Educator Professional Standards (PEPS)

Carried out by BASW Professional Development + Capabilities Thematic Group

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The journey to PEPS refresh

- The PEPS were initially developed by the College of Social Work
- However, in 2015 when the College closed no one took responsibility of PEPS
- In July 2017 a survey of stakeholders was undertaken by the PEPS refresh group in BASW England. Overall the results showed support for PEPS values and domains but variation in the quality of PE and the support given to Practice Educators.

Engagement Process



PEPS

refresh

Values and Domains

- **Values and domains are central to the new PEPS**
- **Domains are more concise and linked to the PCF and KSS**
- **All the domains apply throughout the PEPS stage 1 and stage 2 education process**

Language

- **A new Glossary included**
- **Language has been updated**
- **Terminology has been clarified**

Clearer expectations for PEPS trainees

- Applicants should have at least 2 years PQ experience and be practicing at experienced SW level prior to starting the course
- There should be a 'selection process' for PEPS courses
- Explicitly states that PEPS trainees should have 2 students before being PEPS 2 qualified

Clearer expectation for organisations

- **Guidance on course content/curriculum**
- **Who should be a practice assessor/mentor**
- **New emphasis and guidance on organisational responsibility for practice educators**
- **Ways on which currency can be maintained**

Implementation of PEPS Refresh

- The refreshed PEPS guide was published in July 2019 but not fully implemented until September 2020.
- The refreshed PEPS was piloted by a small number of HEI early implementors in September 2019.
- Regular meetings with the PEPS working group, including the early implementors, identified some queries arising which needed further clarification. A FAQ information leaflet was published in September 2020 to support the PEPS guidance.

Next Steps Achieved for PEPS & Practice Educators

- Additional queries from those included in the FAQ document have been raised on a regular basis and responded to individually by the PEPS working group.
- A BASW web page for PEPS and PE's to provide information, resources and articles has been set up
- Engagement with social work forums and partnership with NOPT to raise awareness about the refreshed PEPS document and raise the profile of practice education has been carried out over the last 12 months
- Stemming from the PEPS Review are two new sub-groups; 'Looking after PE's' and a QAPL review.

Looking After Practice Educators Sub-group: key tasks

- Raising the profile of practice educators and ways to recognise and celebrate their skills and wide areas of expertise.
- Promote the work being undertaken by the group with key stakeholders.
- Provide guidance for social work employers to support the practice educator role.

Quality Assurance of Practice Learning (QAPL): key tasks.

- Refresh of the current QAPL guidance and resources in line with Social Work England Professional Standards.
- Co-production with people with lived experience of social work to review draft QAPL documentation and amend accordingly.
- Launch of the refreshed QAPL and circulation to all relevant social work organisations by Autumn 2021.

PEPS Refresh Review.

- We aimed to carry out a review of the refreshed PEPS guidance by September 2021. However due to the impact of the Covid pandemic and constraints on time and resources this has been delayed to September 2022.
- We continue to promote PEPS widely by working with SWE to establish national standards for monitoring quality.
- We are working closely with stakeholders to review the quality assurance of practice placements (QAPL) and the central positioning of practice educators as vital for practice learning.