



# Northern Ireland Social Care Council

## Key Dates and Arrangements for Transition

From the current Post Qualifying Framework  
to the new NI Post Qualifying Framework

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## **1 Introduction**

A new Framework for Post Qualifying (PQ) Education and Training will be introduced in Northern Ireland in 2007.

The Northern Ireland Social Care Council (NISCC), the PQ Partnership and training providers are working to ensure there is a smooth transition from the current to the new framework. Programmes offered in the current framework will be adapted to meet the requirements of the new NI PQ Framework.

**Programmes will continue to run in the transition from the current to the new Framework.**

## **2 Change of Arrangements with the General Social Care Council (GSCC)**

The Advanced Award in Social Work (AASW), the Post Qualifying Award in Social Work (PQSW), the Child Care Award (CCA), the Mental Health Award (MHA) and the Practice Teacher Award (PTA) are currently issued by the General Social Care Council (GSCC). These arrangements are changing; the GSCC will cease the registration of candidates on 31 March 2007 and will cease issuing awards on 27 September 2008.

The arrangements with the GSCC will transfer to the NISCC. Registrations will be managed by the PQ Partnership and awards will be issued by the NISCC.

Registration will be called enrolment to avoid confusion with registration on the Social Care Register.

Although the GSCC is ceasing to issue awards in 2008 the NISCC has agreed to continue to issue awards to candidates registered under the current framework to allow time for completion. See key dates below.

### 3 Key dates for Post Qualifying Social Work (PQSW) and Advanced Award in Social Work (AASW)

31 March 2007	Registration for PQSW and AASW will cease. The only exception to this will be for recently qualified Dip SW holders subject to the PQ1 policy. <sup>1</sup>
1 April 2007	Enrolment with NISCC for PQ1.
31 March 2008	Enrolment for PQ1 will cease. <sup>2</sup>
27 Sept 2008	GSCC will cease issuing awards.
From 1 October 2008	NISCC will award PQSW and AASW to those completing in the current framework.
30 Sept 2010	NISCC will cease awarding PQSW and AASW.

### 4 Candidates with part achievement of awards at 1 April 2007

**PQSW** Candidates cannot carry credit into the new framework and should complete their award by 30 June 2010<sup>3</sup>.

**AASW** Candidates will be able to transfer up to 3 AA requirements into the new framework for either the Specialist Award or the Leadership and Strategic Award. Transfer to the Specific Award is not possible. The PQ Partnership will provide information about matching of requirements.

Candidates with 4 or more AA requirements can either complete their award in the current framework by 30 June 2010 or can opt to move into the new framework and transfer 3 of the requirements achieved. The candidate will choose which 3 to transfer.

Applications for transfer of AA requirements, within an approved process, will be accepted up to 30 June 2010.

*(For information on mapping AA requirements refer to the NIPQETP website: [www.nipqetp.com](http://www.nipqetp.com))*

<sup>1</sup> Circular SSI (Training) 1/2002.

<sup>2</sup> The Council will have arrangements in place to extend this deadline in exceptional circumstances as laid out in the Rules for the Approval of Post Qualifying Education and Training in Social Work in Northern Ireland 2006 Section 11 (2).

<sup>3</sup> This timescale will allow for confirmation of results and any administrative tasks required before the September deadline.

## **5 Key dates for the Mental Health Award (MHA), Child Care Award (CCA) and Practice Teaching Award (PTA)**

1 April 2007	Registrations for these awards will cease
27 Sept 2008	GSCC will cease issuing awards.
From 1 October 2008	NISCC will award MHA, CCA and PTA to those completing under the CCETSW 'Assuring Quality' arrangements.
30 Sept 2010	NISCC will cease awarding the MHA, CCA and PTA.

Training in these areas of work will continue and will be catered for in the new Framework.

## **6 The New PQ Framework**

1 April 2007	Enrolment of candidates for the new PQ Framework will commence.
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The NISCC will issue awards within the new Framework when the first candidates complete successfully.