



May 2002

Post Qualifying Child Care Award

A Guide for Employers

The PQ Child Care Award was developed by the former Central Council for Education and Training in Social Work (CCETSW) in conjunction with the Department of Health to fit with a number of government initiatives aimed at improving standards of child care practice. These initiatives include Quality Protects, Modernising Social Services and the new Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and their Families. The Child Care Award has been adopted by the Northern Ireland Social Care Council (NISCC), the General Social Care Council (GSCC), the Care Council for Wales (CCW), and the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC); the regulatory bodies which replaced CCETSW in October 2001.

The Award

The Award provides a qualification for child care social workers from residential, field or day care settings. It is a further step to improving the competence of social workers doing complex child care work and raising standard in practice. The requirements for the Award focus on the assessment of the developmental needs of children and young people and the capacity of parents and care givers to respond to these needs. They take into account the impact the wider family and environmental factors have on the child or young person and on parenting capacity.

An Employer's Perspective

The Post Qualifying framework offers personal social service agencies a structure for the professional development of staff linked to a UK standard, designed to improve the standard of practice of employees, while providing employers with a tool to retain experienced staff and improve future recruitment.

The Child Care Award provides evidence that successful candidates have the skills and knowledge to be able to:

- assess the developmental needs of children and young people and the capacity of parents/carers to meet those needs;
- use research findings to underpin practice;
- use professional judgement in reaching decisions about children in need;
- work within an inter-agency framework;

- co-ordinate the delivery of planned services and evaluate their effectiveness;
- work effectively within legal and policy frameworks;
- contribute to corporate and strategic planning;
- work with diverse networks, communities and groups, maintaining complex communication and identifying any gaps in services.

The Child Care Award requires employees/candidates to:

- practise autonomously within the context of agency accountability;
- take responsibility for their own professional development;
- practise with a high degree of reflection combined with critical evaluation skills.

Timescales

Child Care Programmes are now available in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Details for Northern Ireland can be obtained from the Northern Ireland PQ Child Care partnership (see below).

Entry Requirements

To be eligible to register for the Child Care Award, candidates must:

- be working with children or young people;
- hold a CSS, CQSW or a DipSW and
- hold Part One of the Post Qualifying Award in Social Work through work with children and young people.

Further Information

For more information about the PQ Child Care Award in Northern Ireland, discuss this with your employer or the person responsible for staff training and development in your agency and then contact:

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