



May 2002

Post Qualifying Child Care Award Information Sheet

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 Requirements for the Award

CCETSW Council approved the final version of Assuring Quality for Child Care Social Work in July 2000. The requirements for the award are based on the conceptual framework commissioned by the Department of Health and the National Occupational Standards for Child Care Social Work (TOPSS 2000). The Child Care Award is equivalent to a Post Qualifying Award in Social Work and carries 120 PQ credits. A copy of the Requirements for the PQ Child Care Award may be downloaded from the Quality Assurance Materials section of this site, or from NISCC Information Service.

Entry Criteria

Candidates for the award must be qualified social workers who are nominated and supported by their employing agencies. They will have to demonstrate that they have improved and extended the level of competence required at the point of qualification by holding the PQSW Part One certificate through work with children, young people, their families and carers.

Accreditation of Prior Learning

CCETSW has worked with the child care programmes and others to develop guidance on the accreditation of prior certificated and prior experiential learning. This guidance can be found in Section 3 of the PQ Handbook which is also available to download from this site.

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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