



May 2002

The Practice Teaching Award

The Practice Teaching Award was established by the Central Council for Education and Training in Social Work (CCETSW) to support the continuing professional development of qualified social workers. This 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 Value of the Practice Teaching Award

In achieving the Practice Teaching Award, you will not only be increasing your own professional standards and skills – you will also be passing these on to the social work students you assess. Ultimately the service user will benefit from your educational endeavour as the practice-based element of qualifying training is vital to the development of competent social workers and to the quality of the services will provide in the future.

The PT Award will provide you with formal recognition of your knowledge, skills and experience and will contribute toward your own continuous professional development. The skills developed through the award are transferable and life-long and can be used as evidence towards a further award of the Councils – the Post Qualifying Award in Social Work [PQSW]. In addition, gaining the award will show employers your commitment to meet the future needs of the profession.

Training for the Practice Teaching Award

The training generally involves a combination of a taught curriculum and the assessment of a student on placement from a DipSW programme. There are centres throughout the UK providing a range of flexible PT training programmes, including distance learning, leading to the award. To be eligible for selection to a programme, you must have at least two years post qualifying experience in social work practice or probation. You also need to ensure that you have sufficient time available to undertake the assessed components of the programme in addition to the time and the facilities needed to supervise a student on placement.

Your first step is to discuss your interest in PT training with your employer to ensure that they will support you and give you workload relief. Your next step is to talk to your local 2 PT programme who will provide you with information about application and selection procedures.

Using the PT Award to gain the PQSW

The **PQSW** recognises and validates the overall professional development of social workers from their point of qualification, through to their involvement in more complex work and in contributing to the development of others. By undertaking the PT Award you will also be accumulating evidence towards meeting the requirements of the PQSW. When you have completed your training you will be eligible to claim 60 professional credits – halfway towards the full PQSW. You may also be eligible to claim academic credits towards a university degree as the PQSW is linked to the requirements of higher education.

The PT Award is located at PQSW level. This means that it does not automatically carry any credits towards the Advanced Award in Social Work [AASW] – the award which recognises the leadership and expertise of social workers involved in management, policy making, innovative practice, research and education. However, if you are an advanced practitioner undertaking the PT Award, evidence from the training can be used towards the AASW if it is developed and applied at the appropriate level.

Further information

To register for the PQSW you will need to contact your local PQ consortium (see below) and you may wish to discuss with them the possibility of accrediting any additional experience and evidence which is relevant to the requirements for the award.

Northern Ireland Post Qualifying Education and Training Partnership
216 Belmont Road
Belfast
BT4 2AT

Tel: 02890 656426
Email: nipqet.belfast@cinni.org
Web: www.cinni.org/nipqetp

You can also contact the Northern Ireland Practice Teacher Training Programme to discuss this award.

Northern Ireland Practice Teacher Training Programme
216 Belmont Road
Belfast
BT4 2AT

Tel: 02890 658991