



Guidance for the Social Worker on the Student's Shadowing Experience

Thank you for agreeing to have a social work student shadowing you. Shadowing is a vital part of professional development for students. It enables them to observe the statutory context of social work and the complexity of the work involved. The Universities very much see shadowing as the first step in assessing whether students are aware of the challenges of the social work role and can reflect and learn from what they have observed during the two days shadowing they complete with yourselves.

It is therefore important that they can be as fully involved in your day to day work as data protection and confidentiality allows. Being able to observe duty, home visits, meetings with other professionals, phone conversations, team meetings and so on is extremely useful experience. Students also need to see the full range of paperwork you use and also to reflect on the standard of written work that is required.

In most cases, students will be keen and enthusiastic to learn. However, if there are concerns about student behaviour during the shadowing experience we do really need to know about it. We ask you to confirm there have been no issues on the **Confirmation Statement** attached which you need to complete and hand to the student. Examples of concerns may be:

- Student is late and has not contacted you as to why
- Student appears disinterested and disengaged in the day
- The student spends time on their phone or chatting to people in the team rather than focusing on the work you have highlighted
- The student is unable to reflect on visits, meetings etc when asked
- The student is inappropriately dressed for professional practice
- The student does not follow advice e.g. when visiting a service user
- The student offers inappropriate comments during visits or meetings

We hope that this is helpful in relation to the shadowing experience and please contact us to discuss.