**Guidance for Students on “Shadowing”**

The opportunity to shadow a qualified social worker is a beneficial and integral part of the social work programme. Due to the impact of Covid-19, this learning opportunity will be a remote exercise. It should take place in term 2.

In January 2021 you will be informed of a named social worker. They will be randomly allocated across children’s or adults services and from either Leeds or Wakefield.

Please contact the named social worker immediately that you receive this notification. This is to arrange a one-hour **telephone call** to discuss:

The remit of the team

* The client group
* The other professionals who are worked with
* The area that the team covers
* Example of the type of referral that the team would respond to.
* The main roles undertaken in the team

The most interesting / rewarding aspects of the role

The most challenging aspects of the role

The most contentious issues when trying to work and support clients

To what extent are resources an issue

How the service has changed under lockdown and what has this meant in terms of client contact

Please prepare for this meeting by considering questions that you want to ask the social worker.

It is also hoped that you will be able to arrange an **observation of an online meeting:**

This might be:

a team meeting,

an online meeting with a client,

or a conversation with other professionals.

Please be aware that you must abide by confidentiality. This means that you must be in a private space away from family members or house mates when you make the call.

Normal conventions apply in relation to your adherence to confidentiality, in that you must not share any information about service users beyond the shadowing opportunity.

**Paperwork**

The shadowed social worker is asked to complete a form confirming your attendance and stating whether any concerns arose during the shadowing.

You are also asked to complete a structured reflection.

The shadowing experience should be **completed in Term 2**. Please discuss with your tutor if you are experiencing any difficulties in achieving this.