**Shadowing Experience - Guidance for Student**

Shadowing is a vital part of professional development for students. It enables you 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.

Team arrangements post covid are varied in terms of time in the office. Normally we would ask that you are as fully involved in the social workers 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.

However, because of Covid-19, the shadowing will be equivalent to two days, but the exact arrangements will depend on the Team and can be online or face-to-face. The first part should involve a meeting to discuss the social workers role within the team:

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?

In addition, the Social Worker will support you to attend either virtual or online meetings, which help you understand the social work role. This could be a combination of team meetings, client meeting or meeting with other professionals. This can be more difficult to do now with less time spent in the office, online meetings are fine.

Social workers are expected to feedback any areas of concern that might arise, these include

* Student is late and has not contacted the social worker as to why
* Student appears disinterested and disengaged in the conversation
* The student is unable to reflect on the subjects discussed
* The student is inappropriately dressed for professional practice
* The student does not follow advice e.g. when observing
* The student offers inappropriate comments during conversations or meetings

At the end of your shadowing you must complete the this [form](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=qO3qvR3IzkWGPlIypTW3y7Oz-ZOR62lAu1UntzPIpLhUMlpPREswSDA1MkRBRDNOVkZHRlpMT0dSVS4u)