

End-point assessment plan for Social worker statutory integrated degree apprenticeship

Apprenticeship standard number	Level of this end-point assessment (EPA)	Integrated
ST0510	6	Statutory integrated

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Introduction and overview

Social Workers are subject to statutory regulation by Social Work England. Social Work England sets the standards of proficiency required for entry to the professional register and these are the professional standards for registered Social Workers. Social Work England also holds the statutory duty to set requirements of social work education in England. Its Education and Training Standards (2021) outline the key outcomes necessary for providers and students to meet the professional standards. The apprenticeship and the delivery of the apprentices' training must be aligned to all relevant Social Work England standards to ensure that apprentices are eligible for entry to the Social Work England register on completion. It is against the law for anyone to work as a Social Worker, or to use the protected title of 'social worker', without being registered with Social Work England. The end-point assessment (EPA) assesses whether apprentices have also passed the apprenticeship and is based on the same professional knowledge, skills and behaviours as the occupational standard.

This document sets out the requirements for EPA for the Social Worker statutory integrated apprenticeship. It is for the end-point assessment organisations (EPAOs), that must be a Social Work England Approved Education Provider, who need to know how EPA for this apprenticeship must operate. It will also be of interest to apprentices, their employers and Social Work England Approved Education Providers.

Apprentices will typically spend 35 months on-programme working towards the occupational standard.

The EPA period should only start, and the EPA be arranged, once the employer and Social Work England Approved Education Provider are satisfied that the apprentice is consistently working at or above the level set out in the occupational standard and all of the pre-requisite gateway requirements for EPA have been met. It is expected that the gateway will be reached on completion of all the modules and before the Approved Education Provider's examination board.

For level 3 apprenticeships and above, apprentices without English and mathematics at level 2 must achieve level 2 prior to taking their EPA.

The EPA period is expected to last a maximum of 1 month beginning when the apprentice has passed the EPA gateway.

The EPA will determine the overall apprenticeship grades of:

- Fail
- Pass

This apprenticeship has a statutory integrated EPA. The EPA will use the assessment arrangements in use for other entry routes into this occupation and will be completed simultaneously, as outlined in this EPA plan. Alignment of the statutory integrated EPA is permitted because the following criteria are met:

1. Parliament has prescribed that the occupation (profession) must be regulated, and a statutory regulator has undisputed control of access to the occupation.
2. The statutory integrated EPA meets the requirements of an apprenticeship.

EPA summary table

On-programme (typically 35 months)	Training to develop the occupation standard's knowledge, skills and behaviours (aligned to the Social Work England's professional standards 2019).
End-point assessment gateway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apprentice has met the knowledge, skills and behaviours. • Employer and Social Work England Approved Education Provider are satisfied the apprentice has consistently demonstrated they meet the KSBs of the occupational standard. • Achieved English and mathematics at Level 2. • Achieved all required modules from: BA/BSc (Hons) degree in Social Work OR Level 7 qualification approved by Social Work England where the apprentice already holds a Level 6 degree. • Successfully completed supervised practice in at least two contrasting settings, one with a focus on statutory work, and knows why these were completed. • Successfully completed and documented 200 days in supervised practice learning. Up to 30 of these days can be allocated to apprentices developing their skills for practice, also known as 'skills days'. • Achieved all required modules, taking into account any recognition of prior learning (RPL) of the Social Worker qualification but before the Approved Education Provider's examination board.
End-point assessment (which would typically take place within 1 month)	<p>The EPA starts with the examination board and finishes when the Approved Education Provider submits the required documentation to Social Work England. The apprentice is not required to carry out any additional assessments. The EPA is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration by the examination board and notice of grade decision to Social Work England. <p>Once awarded a pass grade apprentices have the option to apply for registration with Social Work England, to enable them to practise as a social worker.</p>
Professional recognition	Registration with Social Work England

Gateway

The EPA period should only start once the employer and the Social Work England Approved Education Provider are satisfied that the apprentice is consistently working at or above the level set out in the occupational standard.

For those with an education, health and care plan or a legacy statement the apprenticeship's English and mathematics minimum requirement is Entry Level 3. British Sign Language qualifications are an alternative to English qualifications for those who have BSL as their primary language.

EPA

The EPA starts with the examination board and finishes when the Approved Education Provider:

- makes a decision on pass/fail
- the Approved Education Provider emails a secure pass list to Social Work England which includes required personal details of apprentices who have received a grade that meets regulatory requirements

The apprentice separately applies for registration once they have achieved a grade that meets regulatory requirements. Social Work England uses the pass list to verify successful completion of the apprenticeship programme. Successful completion of the apprenticeship is not a guarantee of registration, as the apprentice will be subject to meeting Social Work England's wider registration requirements.

The EPA is:

Examination board

The examination board will be constituted in-line with the Social Work England Approved Education Provider's academic assessment regulations and must have an external examiner present when considering achievement of the Social Worker statutory integrated apprenticeship.

Independence of the EPA will be assured through:

- the examination board, which will include the external examiner, being responsible for the final decision on the award of the qualification that confirms the apprentice has met the education outcomes required for registration with Social Work England.

- the end-point assessment organisation (Social Work England Approved Education Provider) which will conduct the EPA.

Grading

Name of grade	Grade descriptor
Pass	Has met Social Work England's professional standards (2019)
Fail	Does not meet Social Work England's professional standards (2019)

Roles and responsibilities

Role	Responsibility
Apprentice	As a minimum, the apprentice should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> complete the constituent parts of the programme successfully meet all apprenticeship gateway requirements understand the structure and requirements of the apprenticeship
Employer	As a minimum, the employer should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> support the apprentice to achieve the KSBs outlined in the occupational standard determine when the apprentice is working at or above the level of occupational competence outlined in the occupational standard and has met all apprenticeship gateway requirements, taking account of the advice of the Social Work England Approved Education Provider
The EPAO (Social Work England Approved Education Provider)	As a minimum the EPAO (Social Work England Approved Education Provider) should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> be a Social Work England Approved Education Provider for the Social Worker apprenticeship be on the Register of end-point assessment organisations (RoEPAO) work with the employer to ensure that the apprentice is given opportunities to develop the KSBs outlined in the occupational standard and monitor their progress during the on-programme period

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • confirm to the employer that gateway requirements have been met • appoint an external examiner • use appropriate recording documentation to ensure a clear and auditable mechanism for recording the decision of the examination board • maintain robust internal quality assurance (IQA) procedures and processes, and conduct these on a regular basis • conform to the requirements of the nominated external quality assurance body • conduct standardisation events and activities in accordance with Social Work England’s education quality assurance and external quality assurance (EQA) provider’s requirements • have, and operate, an appeals process • arrange for apprenticeship certification
External examiner	<p>As a minimum an external examiner should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • understand the occupational standard and end-point assessment plan • be a registered Social Worker • have professional experience and qualifications relevant to the course and the design and delivery of assessments • comply to the requirements of the EPAO (Social Work England Approved Education Provider) • be independent of the apprentice, the EPAO (Social Work England Approved Education Provider) or employing organisation who are involved in delivering the apprenticeship

Internal Quality Assurance (IQA)

Internal quality assurance refers to the requirements that EPAOs must have in place to ensure consistent (reliable) and accurate (valid) assessment decisions. EPAOs for this EPA must:

- appoint external examiners who:
 - meet QAA Guidance on External Examiners/Expertise for HE programmes
 - meet the EQA provider’s recommendations for external examiners
 - meet the Approved Education Provider’s requirements as set out in their ‘Assessment, Progression and Awarding’ or similar guidance

Re-sits and re-takes

In-line with the EPAOs (Social Work England Approved Education Provider) procedures

Professional body recognition

This apprenticeship is aligned to Social Work England professional standards (2019) and Education and training standards (2021). This means that those who successfully complete the apprenticeship will be eligible to apply for registration with Social Work England.

Reasonable adjustments

The EPAO (Social Work England Approved Education Provider) must have in place clear and fair arrangements for making reasonable adjustments for this apprenticeship standard. This should include how an apprentice qualifies for reasonable adjustment and what reasonable adjustments will be made. The adjustments must maintain the validity, reliability and integrity of the assessment decisions outlined in this EPA plan.