

## Response ID ANON-1VP3-5V6V-1

Submitted to **Child and family social work national assessment and accreditation system**

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### Executive summary

**What is your name?**

**Name:**

Lara Roberts

**What is your email address?**

**Email:**

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**Are you responding on behalf of an organisation?**

Yes

**What is your organisation type?**

**Organisation type - What is your organisation type?:**

Union/representative body

**Who is your organisation?**

**What is your organisation?:**

National Network of Parent Carer Forums

**Would you like us to keep your responses confidential?**

No

**Reason for confidentiality:**

### Question 1 - Achieving our vision

**1 Does this approach balance effectively the clear expectation that social workers carrying out statutory functions will be accredited, with sufficient scope for employers to manage the results for their workforce appropriately?**

Yes

**Do you have any further comments on this proposal?**

**Any further comments:**

### Question 2 - Carrying out statutory functions

**2 Do you agree that the above lists provide a good basis of the statutory child and family social work functions for which social workers should be accredited?**

Yes

**Do you have any further comments on the lists (do you consider that any functions have been left out or should not appear on the list)?**

**Any further comments:**

Whilst we think this list is quite extensive for social workers gaining this accreditation, we would also like to strike a balance between paper work based functions vs engagement with families and this to be reflected in this area.

### Question 3 - Assessment of newly qualified social workers

**3 Do you agree that a social worker undertaking the ASYE or similar programme, carrying out statutory functions, should not be assessed until after 12 months minimum full time continuous employment with the same employer (including time for completion of ASYE)?**

Yes

**Do you have further comments on this proposal?**

Any further comments:

#### **Question 4 - Assessment of new practice supervisors and practice leaders**

**4 Do you agree that new practice supervisors, supervising the carrying out of statutory functions should be assessed after 12 months minimum full time continuous employment with the same employer?**

Yes

**Do you agree that new practice leaders should be assessed after 12 months minimum full time continuous employment with the same employer?**

Yes

**Do you have further comments on this proposal?**

Any further comments:

#### **Question 5 - Assessment of existing social workers joining from other social work roles**

**5 How long after starting work in a child and family social work role, carrying out statutory functions, should practitioners moving in to such roles be put forward for assessment as a maximum?**

Not sure

**For supervisors?**

Within 12 months

**For leaders?**

Within 6 months

**Do you have further comments on this proposal?**

Any further comments:

With regard to a social worker joining from other areas, we feel this is all depend on the social worker and their skills, as moving roles would require new learning to support this.

We would suggest that supervisor's and leaders have already been in this team for a while and have a extensive knowledge in their field. Therefore, any social workers who are new to the team are able to gain the intelligence and support that is needed from leaders.

#### **Question 6 - Assessment of social workers moving from outside England**

**6 How long after starting child and family social work where the social worker is carrying out statutory functions, should practitioners moving from other jurisdictions be expected to be put forward for assessment as a maximum?**

Not sure

**For practice supervisors?**

Within 12 months

**For practice leaders?**

Within 6 months

**Do you have further comments on this proposal?**

Any further comments:

Same answer as Q 5

#### **Question 7 - Agency and self-employed social workers**

**7 Do you agree that agency and self-employed social workers, carrying out statutory functions on behalf of others, should be endorsed for assessment by the organisation which has direct experience of their practice? We would expect this to be the local authority, trust or employer that has the statutory functions.**

Yes

**Do you have further comments on this proposal?**

**Any further comments:**

### **Question 8 - When a social worker does not meet the standard**

**8 Do you agree that it should be left to employer discretion to decide when a social worker is endorsed for reassessment?**

No

**Do you have further comments on this proposal?**

**Any further comments:**

We would be concerned that if the social worker's have failed two elements of the assessment and the reasoning behind that.

What impact would this have on service users ,if they was not a process to place to understand the reasoning for failing two elements?

We would suggest that the supervisor is supported by seeking support on what are the factors for this social worker failing before any final decision is made.

### **Question 9 - Maintaining knowledge and skills after accreditation**

**9 Should re-accreditation be expected, periodically, once a social worker has gained accreditation, to ensure that their knowledge and skill level is maintained?**

Yes

**What type of light touch reassessment do you consider appropriate to ensure knowledge and skills are maintained?**

**Any further comments:**

Any light touch reassessment needs to be done in co-production with the service users. We would suggest that social care work with their parent carer forum's to help develop what this would look like in practice and that it still retains that ethos of the accreditation.

### **Question 10 - Further suggestions**

**10 Do you have any further comments?**

**Any further comments:**

As the NNPCF we welcome this national programme to support social workers in their development, we feel this is important due to the legislative changes of the Children & Families Act 2014 and The Care Act.

As a membership organisation we have seen the benefits of social work working in partnership parents carer forums, for example of this is can be seen in the Social Care Innovation Programme please see report link

link <https://councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/sites/default/files/field/attachemnt/SCIF%20Report%20Phases%203-4FinalWeb%285%29.pdf>

During the next phase of the 31 areas who will be piloting this framework, we would support the local areas working in co-production with their parent carer forums at a strategic level to ensure that this accreditation is reflective of its area.

Another element we would consider is that engagement with university's who are delivering this accreditation, this would mean working at a strategic level with service users in their own setting , to ensure that from the very beginning that co-production is demonstrated to social workers as not only good practice but the norm.