MSc/Diploma/Certificate in Advanced Social Work Studies (Adult Protection)

Graduate School of Social & Political Studies
University of Edinburgh

2008-2009, Semester 1

Evidence Based Practice in Adult Protection (20 credits)

Course Convener: Susan Hunter

Short description
Social work practice is increasingly under the spotlight from government and from the public alike. There are increasing pressures for greater skill and accountability within the challenging and contested domains of empowerment, self-determination and protection that characterise the field of adult protection. The overview here will be generic although reference to the main service domains within community care (ageing, disabilities and mental health) will be made for purposes of illustration. The practice context and focus is properly multi-disciplinary as well as inter-agency.

Summary of intended learning outcomes
At the end of the course, students should have broad knowledge of the following:

- relevant research-based knowledge and familiarity with best practice literature;
- an understanding of roles, responsibilities and procedures within a multi-disciplinary and inter-agency context;
- an awareness of adult protection issues within institutions and services and obstacles to ‘whistle-blowing’.

Course delivery
The course will be delivered on the basis of 4 taught days plus an additional 2 days spent on online learning. Students will also be expected to engage in independent study and application in the workplace setting. Classroom sessions will include a range of presentation, discussion and practical exercises. Online learning will be facilitated through an on-line tutor.
Course outline

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<th>Day</th>
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<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Seminar/workshop</td>
<td>Overview of research &amp; evidence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Seminar/workshop</td>
<td>Exploration of ‘best practice’ across user groups</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Seminar/workshop</td>
<td>Accountability &amp; empowerment in the context of adult protection</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Seminar/workshop</td>
<td>Organisational issues in the multi-discriminatory and interagency context</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Online learning</td>
<td>‘Whistle-blowing’: exercises &amp; online investigation</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Online learning</td>
<td>Roles, responsibilities &amp; procedures: selection of one user group to explore the application of generic theoretical concepts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Assessment
One essay of 4,000 words including bibliography.

Indicative Reading


MSc/Diploma/Certificate in Advanced Social Work Studies (Adult Protection)
Graduate School of Social & Political Studies
University of Edinburgh
2008-2009, Semester 1

Legislative and Policy Context (Adult Protection) (10 credits)

Course Convener: Susan Hunter

Short description
There have been significant changes over the last decade in the legislative and policy context in which social workers operate with regard to vulnerable adults. These changes have seen the introduction of legislation in the field of community care which has promoted care in people’s own homes in preference to institutional care; the strengthening of user and carer rights to have greater involvement in the planning, and choice of their care arrangements including individualised funding; and in the ‘modernising agenda’ associated with new organisational structures and expectations of inter-professional collaboration.

Social Work has a lead role in these new arrangements statutorily and organisationally that requires enhanced skills in and understanding of the new legislation and practice implications; of the assessment and management of risk; and of collaborative working and management.

Summary of intended learning outcomes
At the end of the course, students should have broad knowledge of the following:

- Historical development of legislation and policy from the baseline legislation of the NHS & Community Care (Scotland) Act and supporting subsequent legislation related to carers (1995 & 2003); to direct payments (1996); discrimination (1995) and human rights (1998). Associated policy guidance will also be reviewed.
- Recent legislation related to adult vulnerability and protection, and how they interact with each other and aspects of criminal legislation. This will include the Adults with Incapacity (Scotland) Act 2000; Mental Health & Care (Scotland) Act 2003 and the Adult Support & Protection Act 2007.
- Legislation relevant to the standards and regulation of the workforce such as the Care Standards Act 2000 and the Protection of Vulnerable Adults (POVA) List.
Course delivery
The course will be delivered on the basis of 2 taught days plus an additional 2 days spent on online learning. Students will also be expected to engage in independent study and application in the workplace setting. Classroom sessions will include a range of presentation, discussion and practical exercises. Online learning will be facilitated through an on-line tutor.

Course outline

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<td>Seminar/workshop</td>
<td>Legislation</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Seminar/workshop</td>
<td>Policy context</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Online learning</td>
<td>Explore comparators in the UK: structured exercise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Online learning</td>
<td>International perspectives: structured exercise</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Assessment
There will be a short, classroom examination (topics identified in advance) which will allow students to demonstrate 1) their knowledge of the law and policy 2) their ability to apply this to the practice context.

Indicative Reading
MSc/Diploma/Certificate in Advanced Social Work Studies (Adult Protection)

Graduate School of Social & Political Studies
University of Edinburgh

2008-2009, Semester 2

Risk and Adult Protection (20 credits)

Course Convener: Susan Hunter

Short description
We live in a ‘risk society’. Wherever we look, we are faced with the dangerousness of life in the early 21st century. But just as we are confronted by risks at every corner, so we have come to expect that we should be protected from risk as never before. Yet there is no common understanding or agreement of what risk is, how it is measured, and how it can be managed.

The Report of the 21st Century Review of Social Work (Scottish Executive, 2006) calls for the development of new approaches and skills in risk management that promote excellence in social work and a move away from risk-averse, managerialist practice to planned risk-taking that protects individuals, maximises opportunities for their personal development and strengthens professional autonomy.

This course will provide a full understanding of the concept of risk, risk-taking and risk management within the parameters of best practice and statutory duties. Particular attention will be paid to skill development through the use of case studies and practice workshops alongside reading and discussion.

Summary of intended learning outcomes
On completion of the course students should be able to:
• Explore different theories of risk
• Examine what protection means in the context of adult protection
• Demonstrate understanding of concepts of values, rights and responsibilities

Course delivery
The course will be delivered on the basis of 4 taught days plus an additional 2 days spent on online learning. Students will also be expected to engage in independent study and application in the workplace setting. Classroom sessions will include a range of presentation, discussion and practical exercises. Online learning will be facilitated through an on-line tutor.
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<td>1</td>
<td>Seminar/workshop</td>
<td>What is risk? Definitions, historical understanding and social science perspectives.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Seminar/workshop</td>
<td>The interface between the above perspectives and professional practice in adult protection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Seminar/workshop</td>
<td>Risk assessment, risk management, risk aversion and planned risk taking - issues and dilemmas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Seminar/workshop</td>
<td>Practice workshop – skill development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Online learning</td>
<td>Exploring models of risk assessment e.g. PRAMS and application to own practice agency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Online learning</td>
<td>International perspectives: structured exercise</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Assessment
One essay of 4,000 words including bibliography.

Indicative reading
MSc/Diploma/Certificate in Advanced Social Work Studies (Adult Protection)
Graduate School of Social & Political Studies
University of Edinburgh
2008-2009, Semester 2

Ethical Practice (Adult Protection) (10 credits)

Course Convener: Susan Hunter

Short description
This course will explore ethical practice within social work in the context of adult protection and the tensions between user empowerment, protection of vulnerable individuals and professional intervention. The legitimacy of intervention will be examined with particular reference to questions of consent, informed consent and the capacity to consent.

Summary of intended learning outcomes
At the end of the course, students should have broad knowledge of the following:
• Ethics and values as they relate to work with adults
• Theories of ladders of empowerment
• Issues of power
• Codes of practice
• Service user self-determination

Course delivery
The course will be delivered on the basis of 2 taught days plus an additional 2 days spent on online learning. Students will also be expected to engage in independent study and application in the workplace setting. Classroom sessions will include a range of presentation, discussion and practical exercises. Online learning will be facilitated through an on-line tutor.
Course outline

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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Seminar/workshop</td>
<td>Ethical practice with particular reference to capacity and consent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Seminar/workshop</td>
<td>Theories and models of empowerment, self-determination and informed consent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Online learning</td>
<td>Exploring online codes of practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Online learning</td>
<td>Building a case example of a code of practice through an online group 'Wiki'</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Assessment
Select one agency policy or one critical incident from practice relating to adult protection and provide a critique of the ethical issues raised (total 2000 words including bibliography). The agency policy or incident should be described in no more than 500 words.

Indicative Reading
MSc/Diploma/Certificate in Advanced Social Work Studies (Adult Protection)

Graduate School of Social & Political Studies
University of Edinburgh

2009-2010, Semester 1

Research & Evaluation (Social Work):
Theoretical Approaches (20 credits)

Course Convener: Professor Lorraine Waterhouse

Short description
It is essential that practitioners have a good understanding of research and evaluation principles and practice. This is, in part, about creating research-mindedness; about drawing on findings from ‘best practice’ and also about knowing how to evaluate their own practice. Students on this course will spend some time undertaking general learning but also work in study groups related to their own practice setting.

Summary of intended learning outcomes

The course aims to enhance students' knowledge and understanding of social work research by promoting informed and critical appraisal of the techniques and ethics involved in research, evaluation and social enquiry.

On completion of the course students should be able to:
- Describe and evaluate relevant social science and evaluation methodologies;
- Interpret data and comment on conclusions reached;
- Demonstrate familiarity with ideas and concepts from research literature;
- Evaluate different research strategies and data collection methods with reference to issues such as reliability, validity, feasibility and ethics;
- Demonstrate understanding of the place theoretical perspectives and evidence from international research has in assessment and decision-making processes in social work practice;
- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of issues in relation to sensitive topics and sensitive populations;
- Contribute to policy and practice review and development:
• Locate, understand and critically evaluate research findings and literature that is relevant to social work practice and;
• Demonstrate familiarity with the range and significance of approaches for evaluating welfare outcomes.

Course delivery
The course will be delivered on the basis of 4 taught days plus an additional 2 days spent on online learning. Students will also be expected to engage in independent study and application in the workplace setting. Classroom sessions will include a range of presentation, discussion and practical exercises. Online learning will be facilitated through an on-line tutor.

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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Seminar/workshop</td>
<td>Key concepts in social research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Seminar/workshop</td>
<td>Data collection: theory &amp; practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Seminar/workshop</td>
<td>Reflexivity in social research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Seminar/workshop</td>
<td>Researching sensitive subjects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Online learning</td>
<td>Online exploration of ethical guidelines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Online learning</td>
<td>Coding and analysis: demonstration and practice (to be held in micro-lab)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Assessment
Students will be required to choose a research study related to their own practice setting, and, in no more than 4,000 words, write a critical review of the research.

Indicative reading

Additional specialist reading will be set which relates to social work in different practice
settings.
Research & Evaluation (Social Work) in Practice (10 credits)

Course Convener: Professor Lorraine Waterhouse

Short description
Students who have already undertaken Research and Evaluation: Theoretical Approaches will have an opportunity to evaluate a practice intervention or new practice initiative in which they (or their agency) are involved.

Summary of intended learning outcomes
The aim of this course is to turn theory into practice: to encourage the acquisition of research and evaluation skills and understanding for application in social work in different settings.

On completion of the course students should be able to:
• Plan and design a small scale evaluation
• Examine relevant ethical issues
• Conduct the evaluation
• Write up the project
• Evaluate the usefulness of the evaluation

Course delivery
The course will be delivered on the basis of 2 taught days plus an additional 2 days spent on online learning. Students will also be expected to engage in independent study and application in the workplace setting. Classroom sessions will include a range of presentation, discussion and practical exercises. Online learning will be facilitated through an on-line tutor.
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<td>1</td>
<td>Seminar/workshop</td>
<td>Planning an evaluation using interviews or focus groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Seminar/workshop</td>
<td>Disseminating &amp; evaluating the evaluation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Online learning</td>
<td>Building and delivering an online survey to be completed by colleagues in own agency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Online learning</td>
<td>Coding and analysis of online survey above</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Assessment
Students will be required to write a research report based on their evaluation, in no more than 2,000 words.

Indicative reading

Additional specialist reading will be set which relates to social work in different practice settings.
MSc/Diploma/Certificate in Advanced Social Work Studies (Adult Protection)

Graduate School of Social & Political Studies
University of Edinburgh

2009-2010, Semester 2

Options Course (20 credits)

Students choose another one 20-credit course from the following. Note that pre-requisites apply to some of the options courses; courses may not be available every year and places may be limited.

*Delivered by the School of Social and Political Studies*
- Current Issues in Health and Illness Research
- Health Policy and Politics in Europe
- Genetics, Nature and Society
- Refugees
- The Anthropology of Death
- Happiness: Cross Cultural Perspectives
- Ethical and Political Issues in Social Research

It is our plan to also allow students to opt for courses from within the School of Health in Social Science: approval is currently being sought for this.

*Delivered by the School of Health in Social Science*
- Dynamics of Group Behaviour
- Research and Evaluation in Health Care and Health Services
- Ethical, Legal and social issues in Child Health
- Group Theory
- Nursing and Health Care Management
- Politics of Care
- Debates and Developments in Mental Health Care
- Ethics in Health Care
- Promoting Health: Evidence, Policy and Practice
- Spirituality and Health Care
- Global Politics of Health
- Public Private Partnerships
- Social Determinants of Health and Public Policy
MSc/Diploma/Certificate in Advanced Social Work Studies (Adult Protection)
Graduate School of Social & Political Studies
University of Edinburgh
2009-2010, Semester 2

Application to a Practice Setting (Adult Protection)
(10 credits)

Course Convener: Professor Viviene Cree

Short description
This course invites students who have taken one of the prescribed MSc Options courses to apply their learning on the course specifically to a social work or social care context. There will be no new specialist course reading; instead, the focus will be on transferable learning and integration of learning. Students will only be able to take this course in relation to their chosen Options Course.

Summary of intended learning outcomes
The aim of this course is to encourage students to critically reflect on what they have learned in their Options Course, and explore what is transferable to their own setting.

On completion of the course students should be able to:
• Understand what is meant by transfer of learning
• Understand what is involved in the integration of learning
• Demonstrate the processes of knowledge transfer in practice

Course delivery
The course will be delivered on the basis of 2 taught days plus an additional 2 days spent on online learning. Students will also be expected to engage in independent study and application in the workplace setting. Classroom sessions will include a range of presentation, discussion and practical exercises. Online learning will be facilitated through an on-line tutor.

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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Seminar/workshop</td>
<td>Human learning: theories &amp; application</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Seminar/workshop</td>
<td>Research into transfer and integration of learning in practice in social work education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Online learning</td>
<td>Online exploration of communities of practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Online learning</td>
<td>The learning organisation: building a case example through an online group ‘Wiki’</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Assessment
Assessment will be in the form of a reflective essay of no more than 1,500 words in which
students draw out the main themes from their Options course as it applies in their own
practice setting.

Indicative reading
Anglia.
Clapton, G., Cree, V.E., Allan, M., Edwards, R., Forbes, R., Irwin, M., Paterson, W. and
Perry, R. (2006) ‘Grasping the Nettle: Integrating Learning and Practice revisited and re-
MSc/Diploma/Certificate in Advanced Social Work Studies (Adult Protection)
Graduate School of Social & Political Studies
University of Edinburgh

2009-2010

Dissertation (MSc in Advanced Social Work Studies (Adult Protection)) (60 credits)

Course Convener: Professor Viviene Cree

Short description
The Masters' dissertation offers students the opportunity to develop, conduct and disseminate (with supervision) a research project within their own specialist setting. Dissertations may be on any topic related to social work and social care, subject to the approval of the programme organiser, and should be maximum 15,000 words in length. A member of academic staff with suitable research interests and experience will be appointed to supervise the dissertation.

In order to progress to the dissertation, candidates must pass all the taught courses required for the degree and secure an average mark of at least 50. Candidates securing passes in all courses but with an average mark of less than 50 may graduate with a Postgraduate Diploma in Advanced Social Work Studies in (Specified Subject).

Summary of intended learning outcomes
On completion, students should:
• demonstrate the ability to carry out a sustained piece of independent scholarship, involving project and time management;
• demonstrate the ability to frame a coherent and answerable set of research questions, to justify these in relation to existing knowledge and theories, and to demonstrate that answering them would constitute an advance on existing knowledge;
• achieve a command of existing knowledge in their field of research, through a critical review of relevant literature engaging with salient debates;
• demonstrate the ability to produce a research design capable of answering the chosen research questions;
• demonstrate an understanding of research methods, appropriate to the research topic and questions, taking due account of any practical, political and ethical issues affecting the conduct of their research;
• where relevant, demonstrate the ability to implement the chosen research design and methods of data collection and analysis;
• where relevant, come up with credible conclusions (e.g. on the implications of a pilot study for a fuller study);
• where relevant, demonstrate the ability to integrate theoretical and empirical elements;
• produce written scholarship in line with research and bibliographic conventions.

Course delivery
Students will be supported by a dissertation supervisor throughout. In addition, dissertation workshops will be organised at regular intervals.

Indicative reading