

SCDSW11

Advocate on behalf of others



Overview

This standard is for social workers working with individuals, families, carers, groups and communities, and others working in similar contexts. In a particular situation or over a longer period of time, it may be necessary to represent people's views, needs or wishes when they are not in a position to do so for themselves. The standard addresses what is involved in advocating on behalf of others, including the need to consider conflicts of interest, to maximise participation by working closely together throughout, and to ensure that the outcomes of advocacy are fully understood.

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

- P1 establish if people require you to advocate for them in specific situations
- P2 clarify with people the desired outcomes of the advocacy and other possible outcomes
- P3 support people to participate to the extent that they are able
- P4 make professional judgements about any potential conflicts of interest that may arise if you act as advocate
- P5 collaborate with people to prepare a case that represents their best interests
- P6 make representation to achieve desired outcomes
- P7 communicate outcomes of the advocacy in ways that can be understood
- P8 review the effectiveness of advocacy

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 international legislation, its relationship to UK **policies** and social work practices
- K2 UK legislation, its relationship to national **policies** and social work practices
- K3 national legislation, its relationship to **policies** and social work practices
- K4 the characteristics of the home nation, its language, culture, geography and institutions
- K5 theories underpinning our understanding of human development and factors that affect it
- K6 theories underpinning our understanding of social issues from psychological, sociological and criminological perspectives
- K7 theories of discrimination in contemporary society
- K8 theoretical and research based critiques of the relationships between legislation, policies and social work practice
- K9 social work as a profession, including historical accounts and contemporary issues
- K10 the nature, role and mandate of the social work relationship, including professional and ethical boundaries
- K11 **factors** commonly associated with social work involvement
- K12 your own background, experiences and practices that may have an impact on your social work practice
- K13 principles of positive risk-taking
- K14 techniques for problem solving and innovative thinking
- K15 working in your organisation: principles, procedures and professional practices
- K16 formal requirements for legal and other external processes
- K17 the purpose of working with other professionals and agencies
- K18 the remit, functions, ethos and responsibilities of disciplines and organisations involved in multi-disciplinary work
- K19 the cultural and language context of the individual, family, group or

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- community
- K20 principles of partnership working with individuals, families, carers, groups and communities
- K21 the systems, processes and procedures of your own and other organisations in which individuals, families, groups or communities may participate
- K22 the range of support that may be needed to promote participation
- K23 the potential of individuals to use their personal strengths and resources to achieve change
- K24 the value and role of family networks, communities and groups in achieving positive outcomes, and ways to develop them
- K25 the eligibility criteria for services or funding streams
- K26 the opportunities afforded by different funding mechanisms including individual budgets and direct payments
- K27 the brokerage role in securing services
- K28 how to express written information with accuracy, clarity, relevance and an appropriate level of detail
- K29 legal requirements, policies and procedures for the security and confidentiality of information
- K30 principles of reflective practice, critical thinking and learning

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Additional Information

Scope/range

Social work practice with individuals, families, carers, groups and communities in a wide range of settings including statutory and non-statutory social services, community development, criminal justice and educational welfare.

Scope/range related to performance criteria

Social work practice with individuals, families, carers, groups and communities in a wide range of settings including statutory and non-statutory social services, community development, criminal justice and educational welfare.

Scope/range related to knowledge and understanding

Policies may include those relating to social care, safe-guarding, re-settlement/community re-integration, criminal justice, migration and asylum, education, health, housing, welfare benefits, diversity, discrimination and promoting the independence and autonomy of adults, children, families, groups and communities

Factors may include substance misuse; mental health; frailty; physical ill health; physical disability; learning disability; sensory needs; migration and asylum; poverty; adults or children at risk of harm or abuse; children in need; difficulties around schooling; ethnic or other minority group status; offending behaviour; public protection

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Values

Adherence to the regulatory codes of practice applying to social workers, and the values embedded in them

Skills

- 1 plan courses of action to achieve identified outcomes
- 2 communicate in an open, accurate and understandable way
- 3 adapt communication for a range of audiences
- 4 facilitate each person's use of language and chosen form of communication
- 5 maintain the trust and confidence of individuals, families, carers, groups and communities
- 6 work effectively with those whose views or values conflict with your own
- 7 negotiate with others to achieve agreement in complex situations
- 8 challenge others when necessary, in ways likely to achieve change
- 9 use your own interpersonal and other skills and knowledge as a resource
- 10 apply person centred approaches
- 11 exercise assertiveness, power and authority in ways compatible with social work values
- 12 produce records and reports that meet professional standards
- 13 access and use information and communications technology systems for the collection, storage and dissemination of information
- 14 access and use professional supervision and support in situations beyond your own knowledge or experience

Links to other NOS

This NOS links closely with:
SCD SW 10 Support people to participate in decision-making processes

External Links

This NOS links with regulatory codes of practice applying to social workers.

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