

SCDSW12

Assess needs, risks and circumstances in partnership with those involved



Overview

This standard is for social workers working with individuals, families, carers, groups and communities. Assessment is a distinctive professional activity within social work. Accurate, comprehensive and person centred assessment helps to ensure that consequent social work involvement will truly fit people's lives and circumstances, and planning cannot begin until assessment is complete. Assessment of risk is an important feature of the process (though not the only one) and tensions may arise between rights and responsibilities in relation to this. The standard recognises that people are experts about their own lives and that information held by others, including those in other agencies or disciplines, also has a crucial role to play in building a holistic assessment.

SCDSW12

Assess needs, risks and circumstances in partnership with those involved

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

- P1 listen to **people's** own accounts of their situation
- P2 work holistically with people to enable them to identify, clarify and express their strengths, **needs** and expectations
- P3 identify obstacles that create limitations for people
- P4 assist people to identify what would help them build on their own strengths, abilities and achievements
- P5 work with others to gather further information relevant to the assessment
- P6 work with people to identify any **risks** associated with their situation
- P7 analyse the nature, level, urgency and implications of any **risks** identified, in compliance with legal and other requirements
- P8 assess the balance of people's rights and responsibilities in relation to any risks identified
- P9 make professional judgements about needs, **risks** and protective factors to inform planning
- P10 record assessment information accurately and in accordance with organisational requirements

SCDSW12

Assess needs, risks and circumstances in partnership with those involved

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 statutory and professional codes, standards, frameworks and guidance; their relationship to social work policy and practice
- K5 the characteristics of the home nation, its language, culture, geography and institutions
- K6 theories underpinning our understanding of human development and factors that affect it
- K7 theories underpinning our understanding of social issues from psychological, sociological and criminological perspectives
- K8 theories of discrimination in contemporary society
- K9 theoretical and research based critiques of the relationships between legislation, **policies** and social work practice
- K10 social work as a profession, including historical accounts and contemporary issues
- K11 the nature, role and mandate of the social work relationship, including professional and ethical boundaries
- K12 principles, theories, methods and models of social work intervention and practice
- K13 **factors** commonly associated with social work involvement
- K14 your own background, experiences and practices that may have an impact on your social work practice
- K15 principles of risk assessment and risk management
- K16 principles of positive risk-taking
- K17 techniques for problem solving and innovative thinking
- K18 principles of conflict management
- K19 working in your organisation: principles, procedures and professional

SCDSW12

Assess needs, risks and circumstances in partnership with those involved

practices

- K20 assessment and planning tools and frameworks
- K21 formal requirements for legal and other external processes
- K22 multi-disciplinary working
- K23 the purpose of working with other professionals and agencies
- K24 the remit, functions, ethos and responsibilities of disciplines and organisations involved in multi-disciplinary work
- K25 the cultural and language context of the individual, family, group or community
- K26 principles of partnership working with individuals, families, carers, groups and communities
- K27 local multi-disciplinary and organisational procedures for investigating harm or abuse
- K28 types of harm or abuse
- K29 indicators of potential harm or abuse
- K30 common features of perpetrator behaviour
- K31 indicators of hostility, resistance or disguised non-compliance
- K32 legal and statutory powers and responsibilities that may be exercised in order to safeguard individuals, families, carers, groups and communities
- K33 the potential of individuals to use their personal strengths and resources to achieve change
- K34 the value and role of family networks, communities and groups in achieving positive outcomes, and ways to develop them
- K35 the nature of personalisation and personalised services, including self directed support; and the role of the social worker in relation to these in the context of national policy
- K36 the range of resources available within informal networks, within the wider community, through formal service provision and through innovation
- K37 how to express written information with accuracy, clarity, relevance and an appropriate level of detail
- K38 legal and organisational requirements for recording information and producing reports

SCDSW12

Assess needs, risks and circumstances in partnership with those involved

K39 legal requirements, policies and procedures for the security and confidentiality of information

K40 principles of reflective practice, critical thinking and learning

SCDSW12

Assess needs, risks and circumstances in partnership with those involved

Additional Information

Scope/range

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

Scope/range related to performance criteria

People may be individuals, families, carers, groups or communities

Needs may include needs relating directly to the people concerned, needs presented by their wider circumstances or needs created by external systems in which they are involved

Risks may include risks to the person, to their personal networks, to the wider community, to yourself or to colleagues in your own or other organisations

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

SCDSW12

Assess needs, risks and circumstances in partnership with those involved

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 apply critical thinking to information from a range of sources
- 10 analyse and synthesise complex information
- 11 apply creative thinking to resolve complex problems
- 12 make professional judgements about complex situations
- 13 use your own interpersonal and other skills and knowledge as a resource
- 14 apply person centred approaches
- 15 balance person centred outcomes and the well-being of others
- 16 produce records and reports that meet professional standards
- 17 access and use information and communications technology systems for the collection, storage and dissemination of information
- 18 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 13 Investigate harm or abuse

SCD SW 14 Plan in partnership to address short and longer term issues

SCD SW 15 Agree risk management plans to promote independence and responsibility

SCDSW12

Assess needs, risks and circumstances in partnership with those involved

SCD SW 16 Agree plans where there is risk of harm or abuse

External Links

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

SCDSW12

Assess needs, risks and circumstances in partnership with those involved

Developed by Skills for Care and Development

Version number 1

Date approved OCTOBER 2011

Indicative review date APRIL 2014

Validity CURRENT

Status ORIGINAL

Originating organisation Skills for Care and Development

Original URN SW12

Relevant occupations Social Worker

Suite SOCIAL WORK

Key words SOCIAL WORK; PRACTICE; KNOWLEDGE; EVIDENCE
