

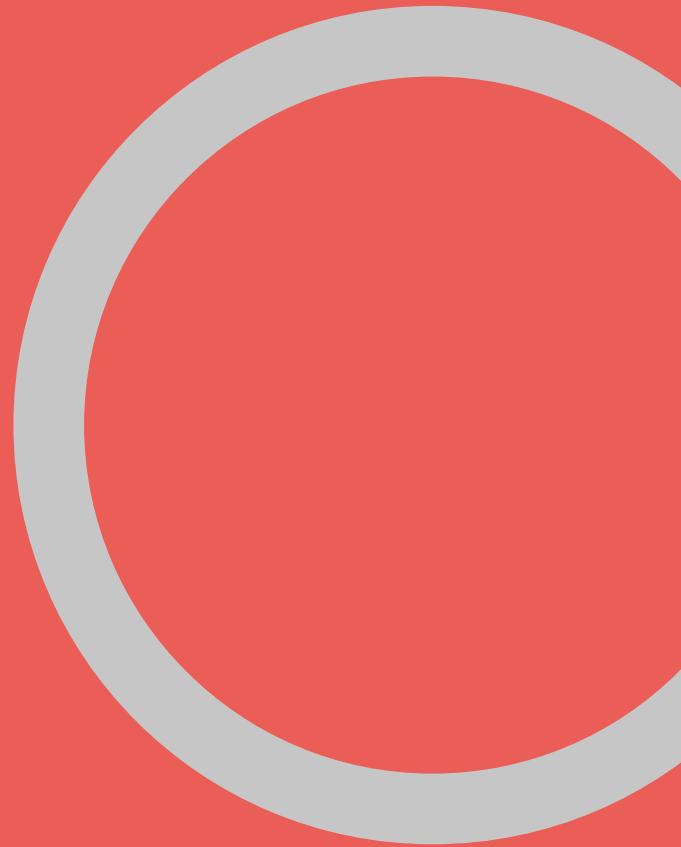


Gofal Cymdeithasol **Cymru**
Social Care **Wales**



Noddir gan
Lywodraeth Cymru
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Specified named course requirements for the Approved Mental Health Professional Award



Contact details

Social Care Wales

South Gate House
Wood Street
Cardiff CF10 1EW

Tel: 0300 3033 444

Minicom: 029 2078 0680

Email: info@socialcare.wales

socialcare.wales

Twitter: [@SocialCareWales](https://twitter.com/SocialCareWales)

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Other formats:

This document is available in easy read, large text or other formats, if required.

Copies also available in Welsh.

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Introduction

As the professional regulator of social work education and training we are responsible for setting the standards for social work training at qualifying and post-qualifying levels. We want to make sure social workers in Wales are trained to a high and consistent standard, and they are equipped with the relevant knowledge and skills to practise safely and effectively.

The Approval and Inspection of Post-Qualifying Courses for Social Workers (Wales) Rules 2018 provides the requirements and criteria for the approval and regulation of post-qualifying education and training. The Rules also allow us to set specific named course requirements for national programmes of learning. This can include specifying learning outcomes, level and credit volume, and/or assessment methods. Programmes need to meet these specific course requirements, as well as the general requirements for approval.

The Approved Mental Health Professional Award in Wales is a specified named course.

This document sets out the specific requirements programme providers will have to meet to be approved by us to offer the Approved Mental Health Professional Award.

The role of Approved Mental Health Professionals (AMHP) was introduced by the Mental Health Act 2007, which amends the Mental Health Act 1983. *The Mental Health (Approval of persons to be Approved Mental Health Professionals (Wales) Regulations 2008* confirms which professionals can act as an AMHP.

They are:

- social workers registered with us
- nurses registered with the Nursing and Midwifery Council
- occupational therapists registered with the Health Care Professionals Council
- chartered psychologists.

We are responsible for drawing up the training requirements for the award for all the professionals who may undertake it and we have adapted the selection criteria to reflect this.

The purpose of the AMHP Award in Wales is to equip experienced relevant professionals the additional knowledge and skills they need to exercise the responsibilities of an AMHP, as defined by the Mental Health Act 2007 and subsequent relevant legislation.

The local social services authority will still be responsible for approving individual professionals who have successfully undertaken this training in accordance with *The Mental Health (Approval of Persons to be Approved Mental Health Professionals) (Wales) Regulations 2008*.

Regulations

1. Applications to provide the AMHP Award in Wales must be made in writing, in a format provided by Social Care Wales
2. The award can only be provided by one or more higher education institutions (HEI)
3. The programme provider must show, through signed partnership agreements, that the award has been developed and will be implemented in partnership with employers responsible for approving AMHPs
4. The programme provider must involve people with experience of receiving social services and carers in the development and delivery of the programme
5. The programme provider must meet all the general requirements for approval of the award under *The Approval and Inspection of Post-Qualifying Courses for Social Workers (Wales) Rules 2018* (except for general rules for selection, which have been adapted)
6. A provider that has already been approved to offer post-qualifying modules will be deemed to have met those requirements for the purpose of this specified named award. If more than one institution is involved in an application, each provider will need to demonstrate they meet, or have already been approved as meeting, all the requirements
7. The provider, if approved, will be subject to Social Care Wales's quality assurance requirements set out in *The Approval and Inspection of Post Qualifying Courses for Social Workers (Wales) Rules 2018*.

Requirements for the Approved Mental Health Professional Award in Wales

1. Credit and level

The award will be worth a minimum of 60 credits studied at level 7 of the Credit and Qualification Framework Wales (post-graduate).

2. Selection

Candidates for selection must demonstrate:

- they are registered with their relevant professional body
- they have sufficient knowledge and experience of the mental health sector to benefit from the programme
- that their previous academic study or experiential learning has adequately prepared them for level 7 study.

3. General post-qualifying rules

Learning outcomes must reflect the generic requirements of all post-qualifying training:

- current research and evidence base for practice
- people who need care and support and carers' perspectives
- current legislation and policy
- the inter-professional context
- *Code of Professional Practice for Social Care*
- the Welsh context of practice – the characteristics and needs of Wales, its languages, culture, geography and institutions.

4. Values

The candidate must demonstrate throughout their training, commitment and compliance with their professional codes of practice.

Candidates must also demonstrate their compliance with the Mental Health Act 1983 and accompanying codes of practice. These codes of practice guide professionals on how they should proceed when carrying out functions and duties under the Mental Health Act.

In complying with these codes of practice the candidate must specifically demonstrate:

- a commitment to seeking the least restrictive option, which is consistent with an assessment of the individual's needs and safety, and the safety of others
- their ability to exercise independence in making decisions regarding application under the Act
- respect for people who need care and support – their qualities, abilities and diverse backgrounds
- a commitment to helping individuals and carers contribute to decisions that affect their quality of life and liberty
- a commitment to identifying and countering any decision that may be based upon oppressive practice
- a commitment to understanding the perspective and experience of individuals who need care and support and carers who need support.

5. Learning outcomes

The main competencies required for the AMHP are set out in schedule 2 of the *Mental Health (Approval of Persons to be Approved Mental Health Professionals) (Wales) Regulations 2008*. The learning outcomes below are designed to meet the main competencies and knowledge outcomes.

The candidate must demonstrate a critical understanding of, and an ability to apply, the following areas of knowledge:

a. Values and ethics

- people who need care and support's perspectives on mental health services
- carers' perspectives on mental health services
- the professional and ethical debates relevant to the role of the AMHP
- the impact of all forms of discrimination on the incidence and identification of, and intervention in, mental health issues and illness
- the role of organisational and institutional structures in promoting mental health
- the impact of power differentials in the context of mental health
- linguistic, cultural and religious issues (including issues related to Welsh language and culture) in relation to mental health and mental illness.

b. Legislation and systems

- current UK and Welsh Government mental health legislation, related codes of practice, associated legislation or guidance, including appropriate case law
- other legislation and policies that are relevant to the AMHP role
- UK, national and local policies, guidance and procedures relating to statutory mental health functions

- the roles and functions of formal institutions and procedures within the mental health system.

c. Professional responsibilities

- the role, responsibilities and accountability of the AMHP
- the roles and responsibilities of other involved professionals
- models of effective interdisciplinary and interagency working.

d. Understanding mental disorder

- the evidence for, and implications of, the major models of mental disorder
- the social model of disability
- the impact and presentation of mental health illness in specific groups, such as children and young people, older people, people with learning disabilities, people with physical disabilities, mental health offenders, homeless people, asylum seekers and people who have experienced trauma
- the impact and presentation of mental disorder in relation to ethnicity, culture and language
- the relationship of mental disorder to alcohol, drugs and substance misuse and implications for interventions.

e. Assessment and intervention

- models of effective assessment and care planning in the context of mental health services
- the major models of intervention in mental disorder, and the evidence for their effectiveness
- the formal and informal resources that are available to support people in mental health

crisis as an alternative to admission to hospital

- crisis theory and models of crisis management
- theories of risk management, including the evidence base for indicators of risk and models of risk assessment
- the implication for intervention of specific form of risk, including self-harm and suicide, self-neglect of dependents, risk of violence or abuse towards others
- models of effective communication
- the implications of high levels of emotional arousal for communicating effectively with individuals and carers, and methods to lower emotional arousal.

f. Skills outcomes

Having completed the programme, the candidate must demonstrate the ability to apply the above knowledge by exercising the following skills:

Working in partnership with people who are in need of care and support, and carers

- the ability to work respectfully with individuals and to respect their understanding of their situation, needs and desired outcomes
- the ability to work respectfully with carers and to respect their understanding of their situation, needs and desired outcomes
- the ability to work positively with individuals who need care and support and carers to evaluate the success of interventions and outcomes, including the worker's own use of self.

Communication skills

- the ability to communicate effectively, in written and spoken forms, as appropriate, with individuals and carers, including those who are in a state of high emotional arousal (this includes

the ability to communicate their own and the organisation's role and responsibilities)

- the ability to enable individuals and carers, where necessary, communicate their needs, opinions and preferences in their preferred language, including the use of advocacy
- the ability to communicate through translators where necessary
- the ability to communicate effectively in written and spoken forms, as appropriate, with other professionals
- the ability to promote effectively the role and autonomy of the AMHP
- the ability to present oral and written information and analysis clearly and effectively in formal situations (such as court hearings).

Conflict management and negotiation skills

- the ability to recognise and plan for situations of potential conflict
- the ability to lower emotional arousal, in self and others
- the ability to demonstrate respect for the views of all parties
- the ability to challenge constructively the views of others
- the ability to explain, justify and, where appropriate, modify their own views
- the ability to work collaboratively with a range of networks and community groups, agencies and advocates
- the ability to identify potential solutions, and work with all parties to achieve them
- the ability to recognise and take action in situations where the safety of one or more parties (including themselves) is at risk.

Assessment

- the ability to select and apply appropriate models of assessment in the context of mental disorder
- the ability to assess effectively in crisis situations
- the ability to explain the rationale for the outcomes of assessment effectively to people receiving care and support, carers and other professionals
- the ability to identify situations and forms of risk, and the appropriate response.

Interventions

- the ability to identify and justify appropriate forms of intervention
- the ability to manage effectively the relevant legal and practical processes including the involvement of other professionals, as well as individuals, relatives and carers
- the ability to plan, negotiate and manage compulsory admission to hospital, reception into guardianship or arrangements for supervised community treatment
- implement, seek feedback on, evaluate and modify, as appropriate, interventions.

Working with other professionals (including advocates and those in the voluntary, independent and informal sectors)

- the ability to work positively with other professionals, while recognising their different roles, responsibilities and approaches
- the ability to manage and coordinate effectively the relevant legal and practical processes including the involvement of other professionals, as well as individuals receiving care and support, relatives and carers
- the ability to promote a holistic approach and

the social model of working with people with a mental disorder

- the ability to identify and communicate, in an effective and timely way, information or opinions of significance to other professionals
- the ability to identify and act on, where appropriate, significant information from other professionals
- the ability to identify and elicit resources, information and skills held by others.

Self-management

- the ability to prioritise multiple and conflicting demands on time and resources
- the ability to make and justify decisions in complex situations
- the ability to recognise and manage the personal, emotional, impact of the work
- the ability to evaluate, reflect on and, where necessary, modify performance and outcomes, using feedback from people receiving care and support and carers, other professionals and supervision, as appropriate.

Assessment of candidates

- assessment methods may assess a number of learning outcomes simultaneously
- assessment methods must be appropriate to the learning outcome(s) being assessed and directly relevant to the practice as an AMHP
- the candidate's practice in relation to the role and responsibilities of an AMHP must be directly observed and assessed on a minimum of three occasions, of which at least two must be of direct work with people receiving care and support
- observations must be made by an assessor who is currently practising, experienced and trained

as an AMHP. The assessor will provide a report about the candidate's skills and knowledge, which should also draw on the observations and feedback of individuals receiving care and support, carers and other professionals who have observed the candidate's practice

- to gain the AMHP Award, the candidate must produce a portfolio of evidence to demonstrate that each of the learning outcomes has been met
- the candidate's portfolio must include a reflective and critical account by the candidate of their understanding of the role and responsibilities of an AMHP and of their own practice.