1. **Title of the module**

SOCI9180 (SO918) - Social Work with Children and Families

1. **Division or partner institution which will be responsible for management of the module**

Division of Law, Society and Social Justice (School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research)

1. **The level of the module (Level 4, Level 5, Level 6 or Level 7)**

Level 7

1. **The number of credits and the ECTS value which the module represents**

15 credits (7.5 ECTS)

1. **Which term(s) the module is to be taught in (or other teaching pattern)**

Spring term (term 2) and summer term (term 3)

1. **Prerequisite and co-requisite modules**

None (All stage 1 modules of the MA must have been successfully completed prior to taking stage any 2 modules including this module).

1. **The course(s) of study to which the module contributes**

Social Work MA (compulsory stage 2 module)

1. **The intended subject specific learning outcomes.**

**On successfully completing the module students will be able to:**

8.1 Demonstrate an advanced understand the impact of injustice, socio economic factors, social inequalities and oppressive social relations on the lives of children and families;

8.2 Demonstrate an effective and critically reflective understanding of the range of roles and service settings in which children and families social workers are employed and how support is delivered across the continuum of social need, with a focus on outcomes, best practice and early intervention;

8.3 Demonstrate a systematic understanding of the main legal and professional responsibilities of a social worker with children and families and the key systems and guidance in use;

8.4 Demonstrate a robust and conceptual understanding of child protection and safeguarding issues that enables learners to critically evaluate research and practice;

8.5 Demonstrate an advanced understanding of effective communication, engagement and intervention with children/young people including partnership working with parents and carers;

8.6 Apply ethical concepts of rights, responsibility, freedom, authority and power inherent in the practice of social workers as moral and statutory agents;

8.7 Demonstrate an advanced expertise and theoretical knowledge (including child development and attachment theories) maintaining a clear focus on a child centred approach;

8.8 Critically reflect on and explain the relationship between agency policies, legal requirements and professional responsibilities, the issues associated with working across professional boundaries and the factors and processes that facilitate effective inter disciplinary collaboration and partnership.

1. **The intended generic learning outcomes.**

**On successfully completing the module students will be able to:**

9.1 Synthesise and integrate complex knowledge, theoretical perspectives and evidence from different schools and disciplines of enquiry in order to construct an organised and coherent argument;

9.2 Gather and evaluate library and web-based resources (e-journals and other on-line resources) appropriate to postgraduate study, make critical judgments about their merits, and use materials to construct a developed argument

1. **A synopsis of the curriculum**

The module will offer a specialist focus on social work with children and families. It will address the core principles underpinning the assessment of *children in need* (including children with disabilities) and their families and offer specialist knowledge and understanding about the legal framework within which social work in children’s services is undertaken. The importance and nature of engaging and working in partnership with parents will be explored as will the nature and role of research and theory in informing interventions and outcomes sought. How social workers work with *Looked After* *Children*, including fostering and adoption issues and aftercare will also be addressed. Key messages from Inquiry reports, serious case reviews and government commissioned reports will be woven into the teaching as appropriate and the role of other professionals in child protection outlined. Effective models of multi-disciplinary and multi-agency working will be identified as will the relationships between child protection and family support; and outcomes, best practice and early intervention. The identification of child abuse and assessment of significant harm, including the assessment of risk, thresholds, child protection investigations, changing practice and policy trends, and the different ways in which children might be subject to neglect and abuse will be critically explored. Procedural intervention in child protection and safeguarding work will be outlined and the importance of developing critical analysis skills and effective professional judgement will be addressed in depth

1. **Reading list (Indicative list, current at time of publication. Reading lists will be published annually)**

* Department for Education (2018). Working Together to Safeguard Children. [Online]. Available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2> [Accessed 6 December 2020].
* Dickens, J. and Masson, J. (2016). The courts and child protection social work in England: Tail wags dog? British Journal of Social Work. 46(2), pp. 355-371.
* Ferguson, H. (2017). How children become invisible in child protection work: Findings from research into day-to-day social work practice. British Journal of Social Work. 47(4), pp. 1007-1023
* Ferguson, H. (2011). Child Protection Practice. Basingstoke: Macmillan Education.
* Horwath, J. & Platt, D. (eds) (2019) The Child’s World: The Essential Guide to Assessing Vulnerable Children, Young People and their Families, 3rd Edn, London: Jessica Kingsley
* Munro, E. (2019). Assessments to support young people making the transition from care to adulthood. In Horwath, J. & Platt, D. (eds) The Child’s World 3rd Edn, London: Jessica Kingsley, pp. 557-572.
* Munro, E. (2011). The Munro Review of Child Protection: Final Report - A Child-Centred System. Department for Education.
* Reeves, J., Soutar, E., Green, S. and Crowther, T. (2018). Children and young people's vulnerabilities to grooming. [Online]. INTECH. Available from: <https://cdn.intechopen.com/pdfs/57686.pdf> [Accessed 24 January 2021]
* Ruch, G. (2014) ‘Helping Children is a Human Process’: Researching the Challenges Social Workers Face in Communicating with Children, British Journal of Social Work, 44, 2045-2162
* Tait, A. and Wosu, H. (2019). Securing Effective Communication with Children and Young People, in Horwath, J. and Platt, D. (eds) The Child's World. London, Jessica Kingsley pp. 106-120.
* Turnell, A. (2014). What is Signs of Safety? [Online] Signs of Safety. Avaialble from: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x6WYm4F9mik> [Accessed 23 January 2021].
* Wilkins, D., Shemmings, D and Pascoe, C. (2019). Child Abuse: An Evidence Base for Confident Practice. London; Open University Press.

1. **Learning and teaching methods**

Total contact hours: 22

Private study hours: 128

Total study hours: 150

1. **Assessment methods**
   1. Main assessment methods

Essay (3,000 words) – 70%\*

Legal Problem Question (1,500 words) – 30%\*

\*These components are ‘Pass compulsory’ – students must pass BOTH the individual assessments in order to pass the module overall.

13.2 Reassessment methods

Like for like

1. ***Map of module learning outcomes (sections 8 & 9) to learning and teaching methods (section 12) and methods of assessment (section 13)***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Module learning outcome** | 8.1 | 8.2 | 8.3 | 8.4 | 8.5 | 8.6 | 8.7 | 8.8 | 9.1 | 9.2 |
| **Learning/ teaching method** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Private Study | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Lectures | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Seminars | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| **Assessment method** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Essay (70%) | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Legal Problem Question (30%) |  | X | X | X |  | X |  | X | X | X |

1. **Inclusive module design**

The Division/School recognises and has embedded the expectations of current equality legislation, by ensuring that the module is as accessible as possible by design. Additional alternative arrangements for students with Inclusive Learning Plans (ILPs)/declared disabilities will be made on an individual basis, in consultation with the relevant policies and support services.

The inclusive practices in the guidance (see Annex B Appendix A) have been considered in order to support all students in the following areas:

a) Accessible resources and curriculum

b) Learning, teaching and assessment methods

1. **Campus(es) or centre(s) where module will be delivered**

Medway

1. **Internationalisation**

The module is designed to meet the requirements of UK professional registration. The range of generic skills which will be developed are applicable to international contexts, the specific skills have potential international relevance and reference may be made to learning from practice and policies from other countries.

**DIVISIONAL USE ONLY**

**Revision record – all revisions must be recorded in the grid and full details of the change retained in the appropriate committee records.**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date approved | Major/minor revision | Start date of the delivery of revised version | Section revised | Impacts PLOs (Q6&7 cover sheet) |
| 30/03/2017 | Major | January 2018 | 11, 13, 14, 17 |  |
| … | Major | September 2021 | 8,9,11,13,14 | No |

Revised FSO Feb 2018