

Thinking Ahead?

Social Work

Produced by
Manchester Adult Education Service
Information and Guidance Team
Updated: August 2018

Some information extracted from National Careers Service website

Learner Services

Social worker

What do they do?

Social workers help to protect vulnerable children and adults from harm or abuse, and support people to live independently.

You'll work with a range of people including children, families and vulnerable adults needing protection.

The people you'll support could be homeless children or adults, or people with drug, alcohol or substance misuse problems. In some roles, you might support children and adults with learning disabilities or physical disabilities.

You'll provide help and support to improve people's lives. You may visit people in their homes to look at their needs and build relationships with them.

Skills required:

- excellent communication and listening skills
- the ability to build working relationships with families, groups and professionals
- tact and understanding
- the ability to remain calm in stressful situations
- problem solving and report writing skills
- the ability to make decisions and use your professional judgement
- administration and organisational skills for writing reports
- IT skills

How to become a Social Worker

To get into this job you'll need a degree in social work approved by the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC). See - <http://www.hcpc-uk.org/education/programmes/register/>

Undergraduate degrees usually take 3 years full-time. Entry requirements for degree courses usually require you to have 5 GCSE's at grade 4 (C) or above, and the equivalent to 2 to 3 A levels, such as, an Access to Higher Education qualification.

If you already have a degree in another subject with a 2:2 grade or higher, you could do a 2-year postgraduate degree in social work. When you qualify, you must also register with the HCPC.

You will also need to pass background checks by the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).

Work based route:

If you already have a degree and it isn't in social work, and if it's a 2:1 or above, you could apply to do the following intensive, work-based programmes:

- **Frontline** - for children's social work
<https://thefrontline.org.uk/home-2/our-programmes/frontline-programme/> or

- **Step up to Social Work**, for children's social work
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/step-up-to-social-work-information-for-applicants> or
- **Think Ahead** - <https://thinkahead.org/about-the-programme/how-to-apply/> for mental health social work

Apprenticeships:

Social work apprenticeships in England are currently being developed by employers and universities. Once approved by the government and regulator, apprentices will be able to achieve a degree while working. Find out more on the Skills for Care website:

<https://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/Learning-development/Apprenticeships/Social-work-apprenticeship.aspx>

Local training providers

Degree and Post Graduate Degree courses

A list of up to date local HCPC approved degree and post graduate courses can be found at <http://www.hcpc-uk.org/education/programmes/register/>

The following Universities in Manchester are currently on the register as offering Degree and/or Postgraduate courses in Social Work:

- **Manchester Metropolitan University** - Tel: 0161 247 6969
<http://www2.mmu.ac.uk/social-care-and-social-work/>
- **University of Salford** - Tel: 0161 295 4545 <http://www.salford.ac.uk/study>
- **University of Manchester** - Tel: 0161 306 6000 <http://www.manchester.ac.uk/>
- **Open University** - Tel: 01908 274066
<http://www.open.ac.uk/courses/find/social-work>

Further Education courses - A = Access to Higher Education Courses; M = Maths GCSE, E = English GCSE

- The Manchester College – Tel: 0333 222 444 – **A, M, E**
<https://www.tmc.ac.uk/courses/careers-social-and-community-work>
- Trafford College – Tel: 0161 886 7000 – **A, M, E**
<http://www.trafford.ac.uk/courses/access-higher-education-courses>
- Stockport College – Tel: 0161 296 5000 - **A, M, E**
<http://www.stockport.ac.uk/courses-page/access-to-higher-education-social-science/>

- Tameside College – Tel: 0161 908 6600 – **A, M, E**
www.tameside.ac.uk
- The Cheadle and Marple Adult College – Tel: 0161 486 4600 - **A**
<http://adult.cmcnet.ac.uk/course/access-to-humanities-and-social-sciences/>
- Hopwood Hall College (Middleton campus) – Tel: 0161 643 7560 – **A, M, E**
<https://www.hopwood.ac.uk/discover-adult-he/access-higher-education>
- The Oldham College – Tel: 0161 785 4000 – **A, M, E**
<http://www.oldham.ac.uk/courses/access-to-he-caring-professions>
- Salford City College – Tel: 0161 631 5000 – **A, M, E**
<http://www.salfordcc.ac.uk/universitycentre/access-courses/>
- Bolton College – Tel: 01204 482000 – **A, M, E**
www.bolton.ac.uk
- Aquinas College (Stockport) – Tel: 0161 419 9163 – **A, M, E**
<http://www.aquinas.ac.uk/adulteducation/access-higher-education-diploma>
- Bury College – Tel: 0161 280 8280 – **A, M, E**
www.burycollege.ac.uk

Funding for Study:

General information about funding for Higher Education (degree courses) can be found at:
<https://www.gov.uk/student-finance>

Bursaries may be available for social work students via the NHS Business Services Authority.
<https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/social-work-students>

Further information

- The British Association of Social Workers has more details about Social work as a career and routes into it.
<https://www.basw.co.uk/resources/become-social-worker/how-become-social-worker>
- Prospects career information website
<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/social-worker>

You are advised to check material facts as although every effort has been made to ensure that information given is up to date, we are aware that information is subject to change. The website links are used to provide further information and are not intended to signify that MAES endorses such websites and their content.