

Contemporary Policy & Legislation

Unit Title	Contemporary Policy & Legislation		
Unit Code			
Unit Abbreviation			
Level of Study	7		
Credit Value	30	ECTS Value	15
Home Department	Social Care and Social Work		
Home Faculty	Faculty of Health, Psychology and Social Care		
Unit Co-ordinator	Samantha Baron		
Key Words	Professional Policy; legislation; professional practice and leadership.		

Unit Description

Brief Summary	<p>The unit is designed to provide a critical overview of contemporary policy and legislation in one or more of the following areas: Children's Services; Adults Services; Mental Health Services; Integrated Services; Mental Capacity; Family Justice.</p> <p>The unit will include critical evaluation and analysis of the impact of contemporary policy and legislation on service users, carers and professionals. The unit teaching and learning materials and the unit assessment will be linked to the student's area of practice or leadership and their professional development in the context of the TCSW capabilities framework.</p>
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Indicative Content	<p>The content of the unit will focus on one or more of the following areas of contemporary policy and legislation: Children’s Services; Adults Services; Mental Health Services; Integrated Services; Mental Capacity; Family Justice.</p> <p>The unit will use a combination of masterclasses and tutor-supported learning activities, which may include workshops, online learning activities and other tutor-directed study.</p> <p>Teaching and learning activities, and assessment, will focus on critical evaluation and analysis of the impact of policy and legislation on service users, carers and professionals in one or more of the identified areas of practice and leadership, according to the needs of the group.</p> <p>Student groups will be structured in relation to the range of practice and leadership areas, to ensure that teaching and learning materials and activities can be focussed and presented to the appropriate depth to enable the learning outcomes to be met at Masters Level.</p> <p>Students will be encouraged to develop a research minded approach to the study of policy and legislation and to consider this within case law and professional practice.</p>
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Learning Outcomes

Unit Learning Outcomes	<p>On successful completion of this unit students will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Critically evaluate and analyse contemporary policy developments in one or more of the following areas: Children’s Services; Adults Services; Mental Health Services; Integrated Services; Mental Capacity; Family Justice. 2. Critically evaluate and analyse contemporary legislation and, where relevant, case law, in one or more of the following areas: Children’s Services; Adults Services; Mental Health Services; Integrated Services; Mental Capacity; Family Justice. 3. Critically analyse the impact of contemporary policy and legislation on service users, carers and professionals in one or more areas of practice as follows: Children’s Services; Adults Services; Mental Health Services; Integrated Services; Mental Capacity; Family Justice. This will be with reference to the student’s own practice or leadership experience. 4. Critically evaluate and appraise the relationship between policy, practice , legislation and case law in relation to professional development as a social worker
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Assessment

Summative Assessment	Element	Type	Weighting	Learning outcomes assessed
	1	Written assignment (final element)	60%	2,4 (and including all employability

				and sustainability outcomes)
	2	Presentation	40%	1, 3 (and including all employability and sustainability outcomes)
Employability & Sustainability Outcomes	Outcomes			Element of Assessment
	Employability			
	Apply skills of critical analysis to real world situations within a defined range of contexts. (E)			1&2
	Demonstrate a high degree of professionalism. (E)			1&2
	Express ideas effectively and communicate information appropriately and accurately using a range of media including ICT. (E)			1&2
	Develop working relationships using teamwork and leadership skills, recognising and respecting different perspectives. (E)			1&2
	Manage their professional development reflecting on progress and taking appropriate action. (E)			1&2
	Find, evaluate, synthesise and use information from a variety of sources. (E)			1&2
	Articulate an awareness of the social and community contexts within their disciplinary field.			1&2
	Sustainability			
	Use systems and scenario thinking.			1&2
	Engage with stakeholder/interdisciplinary perspectives.			1&2
Description of each element of Assessment	<p>The unit is assessed by 1) completion of a summative 3,000-word assignment 2) a 30-minute presentation outlining the key areas identified in the written assignment, supported by a formative assessment, which is based on a case study application of theory to practice.</p> <p>The assessment must relate to the student's practice and professional development.</p> <p>The assessment will be in the form of written assignment that will normally contain the following areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A critical evaluation and analysis of contemporary policy developments in one or more of the following areas: Children's Services; Adults Services; Mental Health Services; Integrated Services; Mental Capacity; Family Justice. 2. A critical evaluation and analysis of contemporary legislation and, where relevant, case law in one or more of the following 			

	<p>areas: Children's Services; Adults Services; Mental Health Services; Integrated Services; Mental Capacity; Family Justice.</p> <p>3. A critical analysis of the impact of contemporary policy and legislation on service users, carers and professionals in one or more areas of practice as follows: Children's Services; Adults Services; Mental Health Services; Integrated Services; Mental Capacity; Family Justice. This will be with reference to the student's own practice or leadership experience.</p> <p>Within the summative presentation, all three areas defined above will be assessed within one summative written assignment. Students will be required to present an outline of current research in relation to legislation, policy and practice in relation to their chosen area of practice. The presentation will focus upon current knowledge and research in relation to legislation, policy & professional practice.</p> <p>The summative assessments will be supported by a formative task whereby students will be required to examine 'evidence' and critically appraise 'evidence' and its application to practice utilising a case study approach to facilitate application of learning to practice.</p>
Mandatory Learning & Teaching Requirements	N/A
Minimum Pass Mark	

Learning Activities

Breakdown of Student Learning Activity	Type of Activity	%
	Summative Assessment	20
	Directed Study	30
	Student-centred Learning	50

Learning Resources

Books recommended for purchase by students	<p>Kennedy, P (2013) <i>Key themes in social policy</i>; Routledge</p> <p>Taylor-Gooby, P (2013) <i>New paradigms in public policy</i>; Oxford University Press</p>
Essential Reading/	Bartlett, P (2014) <i>Mental Health Law: policy and practice (4th edition)</i> ; Oxford University Press

Resources	<p>Herring, J & Wallbank, J (eds) <i>Vulnerabilities, care and family law</i>; Routledge</p> <p>Mandelstom, M (2013) <i>Safeguarding adults and the law (2nd edition)</i>; Jessica Kingsley Publishers</p> <p>Williams, V (2013) <i>Learning disability policy and practice: changing lives?</i> Palgrave Macmillan</p>
Further Reading/ Resources	<p>Banks, S, Butcher, H, Orton, A & Robinson, J (eds) (2013) <i>Managing community practice: principles, policies and programmes</i>; Policy Press</p> <p>Block, A (2013) <i>Race, multicultural and social policy</i>; Palgrave Macmillan</p> <p>Fawcett, B (2012) <i>International perspectives on mental health: critical issues across the lifespan</i>; Palgrave Macmillan</p> <p>Glasby, J (2014) <i>Partnership working in health and social care: what is integrated care and how can we deliver it (2nd edition)</i>; Policy Press</p> <p>Gray, A (2013) <i>Transforming adult social care: contemporary policy and practice</i>; Policy Press</p> <p>Herring, J (2013) <i>Family law (6th edition)</i>; Pearson</p> <p>Jordan, B (2012) <i>Social work and social policy under austerity</i>; Palgrave Macmillan</p> <p>Maclean, M & Eekelaar, J (2013) <i>Managing family justice in diverse societies</i>; Hart</p> <p>Sewell, H (ed) (2013) <i>The Equality Act 2010 in mental health: a guide to implementation and issues for practice</i>; Jessica Kingsley Publishers</p>
Specialist ICTS Resources	None
Additional Requirements	None

Administration

JACS Code	L500
HESA Academic Cost Centre	
Date of Approval	12 June 2014
Date of Most Recent Consideration	
Unit External Examiner	

Unit Assessment Board	
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