Module Specification

Relationship Based Social Work Practice

Version: 2026-27, v2.0, Approved

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Relationship Based Social Work Practice

Module code: UZVYRJ-30-1

Level: Level 4

For implementation from: 2026-27

UWE credit rating: 30

ECTS credit rating: 15

College: College of Health, Science & Society

School: CHSS School of Health and Social Wellbeing

Partner institutions: None

Field: Health, Community and Policy Studies

Module type: Module

Pre-requisites: None

Excluded combinations: None

Co-requisites: None

Continuing professional development: No

Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements: None

Part 2: Description

Overview: This module considers the importance of the working relationship between social workers and people with lived experience, within a contemporary perspective. You will learn about the importance of understanding your own identity and role within professional relationships, and develop the practical skills needed to help you work effectively with service users.

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: This module will support you to develop your core social work communication skills and introduce you to the concept of Relationship Based Practice. Theoretical frameworks are introduced to support your development as you begin to make links between academic learning and social work practice.

Outline syllabus: Throughout this module you will have the opportunity to develop your understanding of practice skills, in a range of contexts including:

Understanding the self in context and how your own life experiences a might they impact on practice. You will be encouraged to explore and recognise how your own attitudes, beliefs and values might be relevant to social work practice. You will develop an awareness of your own emotional responses when interacting with others.

Understanding others: You will have direct input from people with lived experience of social work services to enable you to develop ways to work in partnership with, and hear the voices of service users and carers. Principles of anti-discriminatory and anti-oppressive practice will be present throughout the module.

Relationship-based practice: You will be introduced to the characteristics and theoretical frameworks of relationship-based and reflective practice. Throughout the module you will develop skills to support you to become a reflective social work practitioner. There will be a range of activities to enable you to develop a practical understanding of relationship-based practice in social work.

Communication skills: You will start to develop and understand a range of skills that will support you to communicate effectively at different stages of the professional relationship and in different contexts including: empathy, authenticity, and respect.

In this module the United Nations Sustainability Development Goals (SDG) 5: 'Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment', 10: 'Reduce Inequalities' and 17: 'Partnerships' will be considered ’.

Studying this module will help you meet the requirements of the social work

Professional Capabilities Framework: Domain 2 'Diversity & Equality', Domain 5 'Critical Reflection & Analysis', Domain 6 'Skills & Intervention', and Domain 9 'Professionalism'.

The scheduled teaching and learning will count towards the 30 days of skills development required by Social Work England.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: You can expect to experience a range of learning methods including lectures from academics and practitioners, as well as input from people with lived experience of social work services. You will also participate in seminar groups where you develop your basic communication, listening and engagement skills. You will also have access to range of resources to support your independent learning throughout the module.

Module Learning outcomes: On successful completion of this module students will achieve the following learning outcomes.

MO1 Identify the key principles and skills of relationship-based practice including awareness of self, both individually and in relation to others.

MO2 Reflect on how important engagement skills are, in social work practice, to build compassionate and effective working relationships.

MO3 Identify core communication skills needed to work with a range of different service users, carers and professionals

MO4 Explain the importance of anti-discriminatory and anti-oppressive principles in working with others.

Hours to be allocated: 300

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 228 hours

Staff-guided learning = 72 hours

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at readinglists.uwe.ac.uk via the following link https://uwe.rl.talis.com/index.html

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: During the module there will be a range of formative assessment opportunities. You will develop your communication skills in during group work and receive feedback on your observed practice. You will also have dedicated time for critical reflection during group work and have the opportunity to demonstrate your communication skills in a structured 'live' setting. These formative opportunities will help you to develop skills, but also through conversation, and short writing tasks, help you to reflect on your understanding of relationship-based practice, in preparation for your summative assessment.
The module summative assessment is a 3000 word maximum reflective commentary on your experience of studying the module, your understanding of relationship based practice, and the learning you have gained from skills development.

Assessment tasks:

Written Assignment (First Sit)
Description: Reflective account on learning from the module (3000 words)
Weighting: 100 %
Final assessment: Yes
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

Written Assignment (Resit)
Description: Reflective account on learning from the module (3000 words)
Weighting: 100 %
Final assessment: Yes
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Social Work {Apprenticeship-UWE} [Glenside] BSc (Hons) 2026-27

Social Work {Apprenticeship-UWE} [Yeovil] BSc (Hons) 2026-27

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