

Ref: CW/MG (l&d/rpl/embkeycap)  
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Dear

### **Embedding Key Capabilities in Child Care and Protection**

You will be aware that from September 2007 all Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) delivering the honours degree in social work are expected to embed new requirements in relation to the teaching and assessing of students capabilities in child care and protection. I am enclosing a copy of the letter sent to HEIs setting out the SSSC's expectations and requirements. This will I hope help you in relation to providing appropriate practice learning opportunities. I am writing to seek your assistance in helping to deliver this requirement.

In relation to practice learning, the requirements state that in every learning opportunity the student must "evidence their knowledge and application of child care and protection as it is relevant to their setting" and the particular SCOF level relevant to that year of study. By the point of qualification the student must have had the opportunity "to undertake an assessment of a child or of parenting capacity" (Key Capabilities, p6).

The requirement to embed in all years of study from September onwards means that for some practice learning opportunities commencing from September 2007 there will be a need to establish creative partnership arrangements between and across agencies to enable all students to meet the assessment requirement. This can either be as case holder or as a co-worker working with others. Employers, agencies providing practice learning opportunities and practice teachers will need to work together with HEIs and the SSSC to ensure this new requirement is met and suitable practice learning experiences are provided.

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Throughout the coming months we will be working closely with the Scottish Institute for Excellence in Social Work Education (the Institute) to support HEIs and employers in embedding Key Capabilities in their programmes and practice learning. In particular the SSSC and staff from the Key Capabilities project will be holding a meeting with agency practice learning coordinators in Glasgow on 27 August. I am sure you support this development in the training of social workers and will work with us to ensure this requirement is met and newly qualified social workers are equipped to practice.

If you have any particular queries relating to this please contact Bryan Healy, the Regulation and Practice Learning Manager, [bryan.healy@sssc.uk.com](mailto:bryan.healy@sssc.uk.com), telephone number 01382 207341.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Yours sincerely

**Carole Wilkinson**  
**Chief Executive**

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